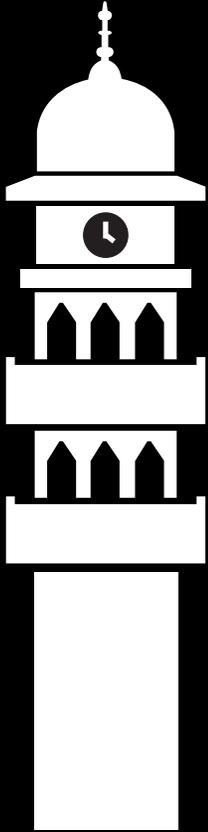


# THE **KHAADIM**

A BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MAJLIS KHUDDAM-UL-AHMADIYYA, GHANA

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## THE MAJLIS KHUDDAMUL AHMADIYYA PLEDGE

I solemnly pledge that I shall always be ready to sacrifice my life, wealth, time and honour for the sake of my Religion, Country and Nation

I shall also be ready to offer every sacrifice for the continuation of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya,

And whatever good decision the Khalifah of the time makes, I shall deem it obligatory to abide by it, Insha-Allah

## EDITORIAL

### TACKLING ISLAMAPHOBIA

**A**nti-Muslim bigotry or “Islamaphobia” is on the ascendancy due mainly to the activities of so-called “Muslim terrorists” whose actions are unfortunately viewed erroneously as representative of the Islamic faith by the Western world. The Western Media, strangely appear not to notice the efforts of many Muslims, particularly Ahmadi-Muslims, the world over in promoting peace and universal freedom of speech and conscience which is the true reflections of the teachings of Islam. What they also fail to notice is that the biggest victims of such extremism are the Muslims themselves. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims have died at the hands of terrorist groups in Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, Sudan and Nigeria. To identify Islam by the actions of a few extremists who seek to impose their hateful narrative on us by force is therefore uncalled for.

The article “**Putting Terrorists To The Test**” by Brother Abdul Hayi Moomen on page 6 of this magazine subjects the so-called terrorists groups such as Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab, Boko Haram and ISIS, to a critical test of their credentials as Muslims who believe and practice Islam in conformity with the teachings of the Holy Quran and traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

He concludes that these groups, by their heinous atrocities and barbarism against humanity, do not adhere to the teachings of Islam. They are crude murderers and vandals devoid of any sense of humanism.

Terrorism and its linkage to Islam by the media and politicians in Western Europe and the Americas, have, by and large, succeeded in achieving one objective. This is the creation of a culture of Islamophobia (hatred of Islam) among sections of Western society, who unfortunately are ignorant about the pristine character of Islam.

That is not surprising. For it is also a crude attempt at demonization by a society whose obsession with materialism has consigned Christianity and spirituality to the realm of non-importance because Christianity, by its teachings which are opposite to original teachings of Jesus Christ, peace be on him, has failed to deliver. The next target is Islam, which they are painting black so it does not exert its powerful and positive moral and spiritual influence on their lives

to the disadvantage of the advocates.

If the definition of a terrorist is one or groups of people who use violence in pursuit of political aims, then the roll call of terrorists should not be limited to Al-Qaeda and co. Their ideological comrades are the far-right groups in Europe and the United States who perpetrate mass murder in pursuit of racist agendas. Yet the hypocritical media shy away from tagging them as anything but terrorists.

What is regrettable is that the so-called Muslim terrorists cite Quranic verses as justification for their actions which give birth to hatred and fear of Islam. Ironically, the distortion of Islamic teachings and the creation of paradise on earth through the creation of an Islamic state, have had the tendency of radicalizing Muslim youths who are deceived into joining them and carrying suicide bombings, beheadings, etc.

Since elected Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (Khalifatul Masih V)<sup>atba</sup>, Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, has led a worldwide campaign to convey the peaceful message of Islam, through all forms of print and digital media. He has made presentations at Parliaments and House of Representatives of western countries and written numerous letters to world leaders promoting peace and justice in the world.

It is about time the world pays attention to the message conveyed by the true followers of Islam and condemn the actions of the so-called Islamic terrorists for what do not represent Islam. They are enemies of Islam.

*The Khaadim* wishes to caution members of the Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya against falling prey to be cajoled by Islamic leaders who manipulate Muslims with lies and distorted Quranic teachings into engaging in violence to achieve their political objectives. It thus behooves on members of the Majlis to read books of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, as well as listen to the sermons of Khalifatul Masih V, may Allah strengthen his hands, to assist them understand the true teachings of Islam. Equipped with this understanding, they will not only be in a position to live lives that attract people to true Islam, but also resist the machinations of so-called Muslim scholars who are masquerading under the garb of politicians and causing mayhem in the world. This is the call of the hour.

### FROM THE HOLY QURAN

#### **On Vying With One Another in Doing Good**

**A**llah, the Exalted, has said: “And vie with one another in asking forgiveness from your Lord, and for a Paradise whose price is the heavens and the earth, prepared for the God-fearing. Those who spend in prosperity and adversity, and those who suppress anger and pardon men; and Allah loves those who do good.” (*Al-E-Imran: 134-135*)

### FROM THE SAYINGS OF THE HOLY PROPHET<sup>SAW</sup>

#### **On Vying With One Another in Doing Good**

**A**bu Hurairah relates that a man came and asked the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup>: Which giving away in charity is most acceptable to God? He answered: that which you give away while you are in good health, seeking wealth, fearing adversity and hoping for prosperity. Do not delay spending in charity till you are in extremity and say: To So and So this, and to So and So that: for by then they already belong to so and so. (*Bukhari and Muslim*)

### FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH<sup>AS</sup> **Faith and Good Deeds**

**A**s no garden can flourish without water, no faith can be considered alive without good deeds. It is meaningless to have faith without righteous actions; likewise good deeds without faith are a vain display.

According to Islam, heaven in fact is the reflected image of our faith and good deeds. It is not something new which will be delivered to man from outside. In fact it is created from within him. Each man’s heaven is born out of his own faith and good deeds, which he begins to experience and enjoy in this very life. (Islamic Usul ki Filasfi: Roohani Khazain, Vol. 10, p. 390)

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## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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### 2 - Day Jalsa Salana Security Briefing held

Story by *Fadl Rahman Essel, Add. Muhtamim Isha'at, MKA-GH*

**A** 2-day sensitization workshop on security for Jalsa Salana Ghana was held for some selected 250 members of the Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Ghana. The event took place on the 6th to 7th of January, 2015 at the Mission's conference site, Bagh-e-Ahmad, Pomadze.

In his welcoming address, Ustaz Aliu Adam, Naib Sadr, Administrative Duties, charged the Khuddam to be disciplined since the success of the Jalsa laid at their feet and encouraged them to obey and follow instructions given them. He advised participants to take the training seriously and act professionally during the Jalsa.

Alhaj Abdur Rahman Ennin, Afsar Jalsa Salana Ghana, commended the Khuddam for having sacrificed their time for the propagation of Islam Ahmadiyyat. He advised them to be obedient to orders and pay heed to the Institution of Khilafat.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Abdul Noor Wahab, Sadr Mulk, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya Ghana, expressed appreciation to participants and cautioned them that the success of the conference rested on their shoulders. He tasked them to work diligently and professionally during the conference. Resource persons for the workshop included Commander Kamaldeen Ali, W.O. II Yusif Yakub, Inspector Alimata and other Ahmadis from the Security Services. May Allah bless them all.

The Khaadim wishes to express its profound gratitude to all Khuddam in and outside Ghana who contributed to the success of Jalsa Salana Ghana, 2015.

### Two Career Counseling & Guidance Sessions Held

Story by *Alhassan Atta-Quayson, Muhtamim, Umur-e-Talaba, MKA-GH, Southern Sector*

**S**hooba Umur-e-Talaba (Southern Sector) organized two career counselling and guidance sessions for members of Majlis Khudam-ul-Ahmadiyya Ghana who are at various levels of their educational career. The sessions were facilitated by the Muhtamim Umur-e-Talaba (Southern Sector), Mr. Alhassan Atta-Quayson, who is also a Lecturer at the University of Education, Winneba.

The maiden edition was held on Sunday, 15th February 2015, at Ekumfi T. I. Ahmadiyya Senior High School (E-AMASS) in Essarkyir in the Central East Region. The session was attended by 90 students, out of which more than 50 were males. The second edition was held after two weeks at the Ahmadiyya Central Mosque in Takoradi. It was also attended by 50 students. The audience at Takoradi belonged to different levels of education, with most at basic and secondary levels.

At both sessions, general remarks about career planning and implementation were given by the facilitator. Mr. Atta-Quayson stressed that career planning should be very dynamic and should continue even when one is employed. It should be reviewed from time to time with deep reflection and prayer. He advised participants to take their relation with Allah seriously in order to obtain divine guidance in planning their career and realizing their career dreams.

Participants at both sessions asked various questions bordering relevant courses and programs to select when leaving one level of education to another, and how that can lead to the realization of career plans and dreams. One Visual Arts student asked if he could pursue Law at the University. The facilitator who responded to various questions affirmed that irrespective of one's program at the Senior High School, any student can pursue Law at the University. However, he stressed that excelling at the current level of education is extremely crucial in obtaining admission to read law at the university. He therefore advised participants to take their studies seriously in addition to their prayers.

### National Tabligh and Tarbiyyat Seminar Held at Kumasi

Story by *Fadl Rahman Essel, Additional Muhtamim Isha'at, MKAG*

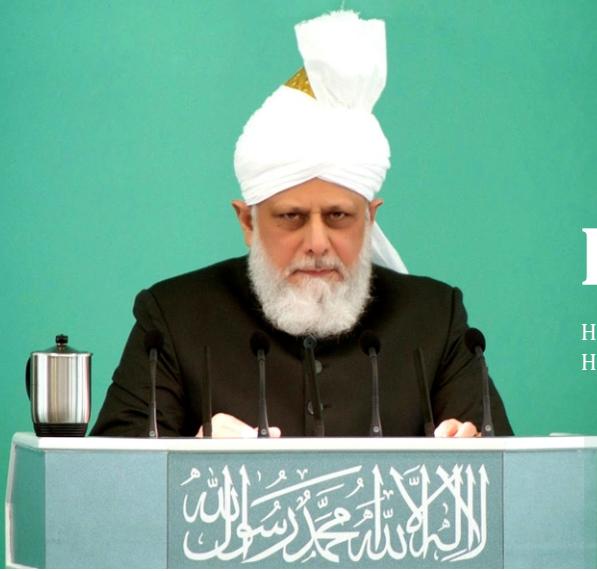
**M**arkaz has directed the Ghana Jama'at of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission to convert 50,000 souls into the fold of Ahmadiyyat by the close of July 2015. This was disclosed by the Sadr Majlis Ansarullah, Alhaj Noordeen Saeed at a 1-day workshop in Kumasi at the T. I. Ahmadiyya Senior High School. The purpose of the workshop was to brainstorm on how the Khuddam and Ansar would help achieve the target.

Speaking at the workshop, the Ameer and Missionary-In-Charge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission Ghana, Maulvi Mohammed Bin Salih, charged parties of both wing organizations to go all out to use available resources to achieve the target of 50,000 new converts. He stated that our elders played their roles and have departed this world and it was the time for all Khuddam and Ansar alive to also contribute their quota to the success of Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya. He stressed that the contribution needed now was to win 50,000 souls into the Jama'at.

At the workshop was Maulvi Naem Ahmad Cheema, Special Aide to the Ameer and Missionary-In-Charge, who sent a signal to all Ahmadis in Ghana; whether child or adult, male or female to participate in Tabligh. He urged Ahmadis to convey the message of the Promised Messiah(as) and the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) to every corner of the country.

Participants were charged to hold similar seminars at regional and circuit levels to explain the need to embark on tabligh and tarbiyyat to the members of the Jama'at. They were directed to submit names of members who wanted to partake in tabligh so that training would be given them in due course.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Abass Bin Wilson, Secretary Tabligh, Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Ghana, pointed out to the participants that it is only with prayer that they will be able to preach well and win souls for Almighty Allah.



# FRIDAY SERMONS

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V<sup>atba</sup>  
Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

## Synopsis of Huzur's<sup>atba</sup> recent Friday Sermons

*The Jum'u'ah (Friday) prayer is one form of congregational worship in Islam. It takes place every Friday. Regular attendance at the Jum'u'ah prayer is enjoined on the believer. According to a Saying of Hazrat Muhammad (saw) this congregational prayer is twenty-five times more blessed than worship performed alone.*

*We encourage members to read Huzur's (atba) Friday sermons which can be found at: <http://www.alislam.org/archives/>*

*For your benefit we have published below, synopsis of Huzur's (atba) recent Friday Sermons.*

### Blessings of Khilafat

May 29, 2015

Verses Cited: 62:4

During different periods of Islamic history many rulers called themselves Khalifa, yet the large majority of Muslims only consider the four Khulafa who followed the Holy Prophet(saw) as the Rightly Guided Khulafa. That is, theirs was an era of guidance when the prevailing system was run in line with the model of the Holy Prophet(saw) and in accordance with the teachings of the Qur'an. Later, circumstances changed and the aforementioned prophecy of the Holy Prophet(saw) was fulfilled word for word. It is thus the duty of each person who takes Bai'at to always stay firm on it and adhere to Khilafat which operates in the ways of the Promised Messiah(as). And also spread Oneness of God in the world. God sent the Holy Prophet(saw) for this task and it was also for this task that his servant the Promised Messiah(as) was sent and it was also indeed for this task that the Holy Prophet(saw) foretold of Khilafat that would last till the Day of Judgement. When God sent the second Manifestation to establish faith in the world, He did not want opponents of faith to be joyous at faith being diminished once again. Thus Khilafat has been established by God after the Promised Messiah(as) in order for faith to prevail. God also deemed it the duty of those who claim to adhere to the system of Khilafat to become its helpers and be resolute in safeguarding their own faith as well as taking the message of faith to others.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II(ra) related that he told Maulawi Muhammad Ali that the question before him should be who could be the next Khalifa or not! Maulawi Muhammad Ali replied that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II only stressed upon this because he knew who the next Khalifa would be but he responded by saying he did not know and he would take Bai'at of whoever Maulawi Sahib chose.

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***It is thus the duty of each person who takes Bai'at to always stay firm on it and adhere to Khilafat which operates in the ways of the Promised Messiah(as). And also spread Oneness of God in the world.***

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However, Maulawi Muhammad Ali was not to agree and he did not. Recently hundreds of Khuddam of various ages from Canada and USA came to meet Huzoor in London. Some of them had recently taken Bai'at. They stayed for three days. Following the visit, their feelings changed. They expressed amazing sincerity and loyalty which was astonishing to behold. They also expressed their feelings on their return home and mentioned bringing about changes in themselves. They promised to be regular in Salat, in their association

with Jama'at, and to continue and develop their connection with Khilafat.

### The Essence of Worship of Allah

April 10, 2015

Verses Cited: 23:2-3

The first of the aforementioned verses gives certain glad-tiding of success to believers. However, what sort of believers does it refer to? The verses that follow give out many conditions and requisites of being a believer. The first of these requisites or qualities that a believer must have is that they are humble in their Prayer/Salat. Being humble in this context usually means weeping during Salat. However, it has many other meanings and connotations and unless all of those are fulfilled, the true condition of being a believer is not achieved.

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***The first stage of a believer's spiritual state is that of humility, weeping and tender heartedness which a believer experiences during Salat and remembrance of Allah.***

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Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II(ra) narrated that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I(ra) used to relate an account of an elder. The elder

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## FRIDAY SERMONS

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offered Salat at mosque for many long years with the thought that people would praise him. But owing to some past virtues of his, God put it in the hearts of people that they used to call him a hypocrite. One day he realised that he had spent a lifetime worshipping at mosque but no one ever called him virtuous, he felt had he prayed for the sake of God, God would have been pleased with him. The Promised Messiah(as) writes: The first stage of a believer's spiritual state is that of humility, weeping and tender heartedness which a believer experiences during Salat and remembrance of Allah. That is, to generate in one's self a spirit of supplication, poignancy, extreme humility, meekness of soul, ardour and warmth. To assume a state of fear while turning to the Glorious God as this verse states: *'Surely, success comes to the believers, Who are humble in their Prayers'*. Indeed, the Holy Prophet(saw) whose standard and level of worship of God is beyond our imagination said that even he would be granted Paradise only by the grace of God. How can anyone else's practice then take them to Paradise! In spite of being given guarantee by God, the Holy Prophet (saw), who had come to reform the entire world, so intensified his humility and meekness during Prayer at night by standing for long periods of time that his feet would swell.

### Taqwa (Righteousness)

March 6, 2015  
Verses Cited: 59:19-20

Generally speaking the root cause of every badness or sin lies in not making any effort to avoid it by considering such action unnecessary, although this very carelessness leads to bigger sins. Man gradually forgets virtues and the standards that are expected of a believer. Fear of God diminishes and one's belief in the Hereafter also weakens. In practice, one becomes distant from the requisites of faith. The aforementioned Quranic verses draw attention to this subject. One is reminded not to merely be concerned with the interests, comforts and connections of this world. If families that ruin their home live over small, trivial matters reflected on commandments of God and also practised them, not only would they be guarantors of peaceful family life, they would also be adorning the future of their children. Families that are ruining their

homes over trivial worldly matters should reflect and ponder over this. Your next generation does not only belong to you, it is also an asset of the Jama'at and the nation. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I(ra) said that a believer should first think of the consequences of any task that he embarks upon. Reflecting over the consequences will lead him to abide by righteousness. We need to instil the belief that God watches every act of ours and we also need to instil the belief that every kind of deception, no matter how insignificant we may consider it to be, or any sloth or indolence on our part is not liked by God.

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*We need to instil the belief that God watches every act of ours and we also need to instil the belief that every kind of deception, no matter how insignificant we may consider it to be, or any sloth or indolence on our part is not liked by God.*

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By asking believers to look for what one sends for the morrow, God has commanded us to abide by righteousness in family matters, in business matters to matters of national and international scope. When Hazrat Khalifatul Masih visited Kenya, he met with a politician who related to him that he had also met Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV(rh) who had advised him something which had proved very beneficial. The advice was to think before doing anything because God is watching you and that He also has a record of everything one does. Perhaps this person was a Christian. If he could benefit from this advice, how much more beneficial would the advice be for a true believer who has been enjoined by God to follow it.

**In faith, exercise your ability, help the weaker brother**

January 30, 2015

Every human is different from the other in his mental and physical ability and in his knowledge and intellect. Thus, God has made His commandments flexible in the sense that they have minimal as well as

maximum standards of attainment which should be practiced with honesty. This leaves no room for objection that God has given someone a nature which does not correspond with God's commandments. People have varying levels of intelligence; some have more capacities than others. This can be seen in worldly matters, some people have high level of ability, some have mediocre while some lag behind. The Promised Messiah(as) said that God does not ask anyone to accept anything that is beyond their capacity so that His commandments are not inconvenient to practice. It should be very clear that God knows the state of the inner recesses of our heart and no excuse about lack of knowledge, lack of wisdom or capacity will stand before God. Therefore we should keep it in view that we have to test our belief and our practice. God knew that different kinds of people would be needed to run the world therefore He stated that some of them should invite others to good-ness. It is true that everyone is not the same in learning knowledge and indeed imparting knowledge and every one cannot equally benefit others. However, effort should be made to use one's capacities to attain the most excellent standard. Congregational Prayer is obligatory for men. If those who come to mosque regularly are supportive to others, things could improve. Hazrat Musleh Maud(ra) said that once he came for Isha Prayers and saw only two rows. He suggested to people to bring their neighbours along next time. The number of worshipers started increasing from the next day. Indeed reminding polishes one's capacities if people who regularly came for Prayers brought their acquaintances and friends along and shared drives things could improve.

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*The Promised Messiah(as) said that God does not ask anyone to accept anything that is beyond their capacity so that His commandments are not inconvenient to practice.*

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# PUTTING TERRORISTS TO THE TEST

By Abdul Hayi Moomen, Journalist, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation

When I first read about the cruel killing of 148 innocent people at a university in Kenya by the Al Shabab terrorist group, I was scandalized beyond description.

The closest I have ever come to experiencing terrorism was when the night bus on which I was travelling from Accra to Tamale in 2008 was stopped by masked armed men at about 2:00am, a few kilometers after Jema, a community not far from Kintampo. They ordered all passengers to get off the bus without any of our belongings. As each passenger arrived at the door, a stoutly built masked man stood by wielding a gun while another conducted a thorough search on us. They rummaged through the braziers, skirts and underwears of every female. They searched the pockets and socks of all the male passengers, seized all our belongings including phones and laptops. I had just returned from the UK and was travelling to Tamale to meet my parents. A few friends in the UK had given me some gift items to be given to their loved ones. They made away with all those items. Before they left, they made us lie on the floor, face down, while they walked on our backs with impunity. A man, probably in his late thirties at the time was shot, when he attempted getting up to the annoyance of the robbers. The sound of that gunshot keeps ringing in my ear.

This is my personal encounter with a lesser form of terrorism. And even I have been traumatized since then. My experience leads me to wonder what survivors of brutish, senseless, wicked attacks from all those animals living in human bodies who claim to be acting in the name of religion, would be going through. The actions of terrorists are often violent, random, unprovoked and intentional, and often are targeted at defenseless citizens. And when terrorist acts occur, surviving victims like myself, generally look for ways to cope with the

acute stress and trauma. Terrorism evokes a fundamental fear of helplessness and can set off a chain of psychological events culminating in feelings of fear, vulnerability and grief.

Not too long ago in Ghana, when armed robbery (what I call a form of terrorism) became a major source of security concern, a particular foreign ethnic group, the Fulanis, were usually fingered. It created a xenophobic feeling among many Ghanaians – a fear or hatred for these foreigners was heightened. In 2010, I investigated a story on behalf of GTV and spoke to many Fulanis in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. Many of them admitted that some of their tribesmen were involved in some robbery cases. However, they were displeased that the activities of a negligible minority few were being used to judge the generality of all Fulanis in Ghana. A certain stereotype of the Fulani was created in those days, that portrayed them as robbers.

Similarly, if careful examination is not conducted to establish the real motives of these terrorists but judge them simply because they claim to be doing so on behalf of one religion or the other, we might inadvertently be promoting a general fear for very peaceful people who profess a particular religion, come from a particular geographical location or are of a particular skin colour. This can easily become a social and psychological danger. The fear generated by terrorism can be exacerbated by a population's diversity if there is distrust between groups, categories and classification of citizens.

This is why I believe that the veracity or otherwise of these terrorist groups, some of who are parading in the name of Islam must be examined. For instance, if I commit a crime outside the borders of Ghana, the mere fact that I pronounce myself a Ghanaian, will not make me a

Ghanaian. I would be subjected to an identity attest. What nationality is the passport I hold? If indeed I hold a Ghanaian passport, did I acquire it through fraudulent means? And so on. Similar questions may be asked if I profess to be a Doctor, lawyer etc. and yet all my actions go contrary to the dictates of medicine or law.

Similarly, it's about time to subject the claims of Al-Qaida, Al-Shabab, Boko Haram, ISIS and the rest of them to a test to establish if indeed they represent Islam and its views as they claim. And that test must be done using the teachings of the Qur'an and the Prophet of Islam. It must first be understood that terrorism, in fact, spans the entire world, and manifests itself in various forms. Its perpetrators do not fit any stereotype. Those who hold human lives cheap, and have the power to expend human lives, appear at different levels in our society. The frustrated employee who kills his colleagues in cold-blood or the oppressed citizen of an occupied land who vents his anger by blowing up a school bus are terrorists. The pilot who intentionally crashes 147 precious lives to death, the politician who uses age-old ethnic animosities between groups of people to consolidate his position, the Head of State who orders "carpet bombing" of entire cities, the exalted councils that choke millions of civilians to death by wielding the insidious weapon of sanctions. They are rarely punished for their crimes against humanity. They are not even called agents of terror.

In my view, it is this narrow definition of terrorism that implicates only individuals and groups that have caused Muslims to be associated with acts of destruction and terror in the popular media. Often, the religion of Islam is held responsible for the acts of a fringe minority among Muslims. How can a faith that has over 1.2 billion followers the world over, and over 7 million in America, actually advocate

## Putting terrorists to the test

the killing and maiming of innocent people? Could Islam, whose name itself stands for “*peace*” and “*submission to God*”, encourage its adherents to work for death and destruction? For too long, have we relied on stereotypical images in the news media and in Hollywood films, for answers to these pertinent questions? It is time now to look at Islam and its teachings and not some other sources to determine whether Islam does indeed advocate violence and whether or not these criminals are indeed Muslims.

I am no Islamic scholar, I cannot even pretend to be one, but my constant reading of the Holy Qur’an clearly shows in Chapter 6 vrs 151 for instance, that Muslims are instructed thus, ..... “*...Do not take life, which God hath made sacred, except by way of justice and law: thus doth He command you, that ye may learn wisdom.....*”

Clearly the Qur’an and for that matter Islam considers all life forms as sacred. The sanctity of human life is accorded a special place among all other forms of life. Furthermore, the Qur’an teaches that the foremost basic right of any human being is the right to live as stated in Chapter 5 vrs 32 “*.....if any one killed another person – unless it is for murder or for spreading mischief in the land – it would be as if he has killed the whole of mankind: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole of mankind.....*”.

This is the extent and quality of the value of a single human life, so much so that the Qur’an equates the taking of even one human life with killing all of humanity. In very clear unambiguous language, the Qur’an prohibits homicide. The taking of a criminal’s life by the state in order to administer justice is required to uphold the rule of law, and the peace and security of the society. Only a proper and competent court can decide whether an individual has forfeited his right to life by disregarding the right to life and peace of other human beings.

Even in a state of war, Islam enjoins that one deals with the enemy nobly on the battlefield. Islam has drawn a clear line of

distinction between the combatants and the non-combatants of the enemy country. As far as the non-combatant population is concerned such as women, children, the old and the infirm, etc., the instructions of the Prophet(saw) are as follows: “*Do not kill any old person, any child or any woman*”, “*Do not kill the monks in monasteries*” or “*Do not kill the people who are sitting in places of worship.*”

Again the concept of Jihad is one that has for centuries been misunderstood even by some Muslims. By Jihad, Islam simply enjoins upon its believers to strive utmost, in purifying themselves, as well as in establishing peace and justice in the society. However, regardless of how legitimate the cause may be, the Qur’an

*How can a faith that has over 1.2 billion followers the world over, and over 7 million in America, actually advocate the killing and maiming of innocent people? Could Islam, whose name itself stands for “peace” and “submission to God”, encourage its adherents to work for death and destruction?*

categorically denounces the killing of innocent people. Terrorizing the civilian population, whether by small groups or by states, can never be termed as jihad and can never be reconciled with the teachings of Islam.

Now lets subject Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab, Boko Haram, ISIS etc, to a test.

**TEST 1:** Qur’an Chapter 6 vrs 151 “*...Do not take life, which God hath made sacred, except by way of justice and law: thus doth He command you, that ye may learn wisdom....*”

**QUESTION 1:** Do these groups (Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab, Boko Haram, ISIS etc,) take the lives of innocent people unjustly? **ANSWER: YES.**

**QUESTION 2:** Is that what Islam

teaches? **ANSWER: No**

**TEST 2:** Qur’an Chapter 5 vrs 32 “*...if any one killed another person – unless it is for murder or for spreading mischief in the land – it would be as if he has killed the whole of mankind: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole of mankind.....*”

**QUESTION 1:** Do these groups (Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab, Boko Haram, ISIS etc,) “kill people even when it is not for murder or for causing mischief in the land?” **ANSWER: Yes.**

**QUESTION 2:** Is that what Islam teaches? **ANSWER: No**

**TEST 3:** The Prophet of Islam tells his followers that even in war situations “*...Do not kill any old person, any child or any woman*”, “*Do not kill the monks in monasteries*” or “*Do not kill the people who are sitting in places of worship (including churches and synagogues).*”

**QUESTION 1:** Do these groups (Al-Qaeda, Al-shabab, Boko Haram, ISIS etc,) kill old persons, children, women, monks, and people in places of worship? **ANSWER: Yes.**

**QUESTION 2:** Is that what Islam teaches? **ANSWER: No**

### THEREFORE:

Al-Qaeda, Al-shabab, Boko Haram, ISIS etc are not following the teachings of Islam! They are crude murderers, simple! Terrorists may use religious or political labels, but no one should be deceived by their wily and treacherous ways. They have nothing to do with religion. They are the enemies of peace. They must be combated at every level as advocated by Islam, the religion of peace.

May the souls of every victim of terror rest in peace and may Allah help us find an antidote to this menace. I am a Muslim, the closest I have ever come to a knife is in the kitchen, the closest I have ever come to a gun is when I watch Military men march on Independence Day.

# DEATH AND ITS CONNOTATION

By Sadik Osei, Ashanti Region

Before the advent of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Imam Mahdi, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> of Qadian and the inception of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, the main argument that was used by the Christians in converting Muslims into Christianity was the fact that the Prophet<sup>saw</sup> of the Muslims is dead, while that of Christianity, Jesus Christ<sup>as</sup>, is still alive in the heavens with his earthly body and it was thus reasonable to follow a religion whose Founder and Prophet is still alive than following a 'dead' religion with a dead Founder.

The Christians even went far in alleging that death was initially not part of the divine plans of God, but came about as a result of the 'Original sin' initiated by the sinful snake in the Garden of Eden. One is thus confounded in understanding a God whose mere creature (a sinful snake) can thwart His whole divine scheme of things such as will compel Him to wipe away that Original sin through sending of His only begotten son to die on the Cross as an atonement, rather than sending a sinless snake to die on the Cross since by simple logic, the initial sin originated from a sinful snake!

The Non-Ahmadi Muslims on the other hand explained that, Allah took Hadhrat Isa<sup>as</sup> physically unto Himself in the heavens and disguised one of the guards to look exactly like him, who was crucified in his stead. But the difficulty that arises from this explanation is this; Why would Allah console or reaffirm the conviction of the Jews that Hadhrat Isa<sup>as</sup> is a false prophet by making them think they have successfully killed an imposter under the disguise of one of the guards, as they knew from their scripture that it is only an imposter who dies an accursed death on the cross. That is if someone has been put to death for a crime and his body is hung on a cross, it is not to remain there overnight. It must be buried the same day, because a dead body hanging on a cross brings God's curse on the land (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)? Wouldn't this exonerate the Jews for not believing in Hadhrat Isa<sup>as</sup> as a true prophet in the sight of Allah? Juxtaposing this, why then have the Jews been referred in the Holy Quran as the people who have incurred the wrath of Allah i.e. Those who have incurred thy displeasure (HQ 1:7)?

Or was Allah so afraid of the Jews that He had to, at all cost, grant them a pseudo-Jesus to satisfy their wishful desires of wanting to kill a false prophet, even after He had comfortably raised His true beloved prophet to Himself in the heavens?

However, observation from the laws of nature shows that for every creature to assume perfection in the evolutionary process, it has to abandon its existing state (i.e. die) and then take on a higher form - human beings inclusive. As an illustration; during sleep, which is a form of transient death, our human faculties become so sharpen/perfect that we are able to see things or travel to a distance which are thousands of miles away, an experience which is simply impossible in the awaken state. This phenomenon is termed as dream, vision or trance; which in any case demands the subjugation (death) of our physical body in one way or the other. In effect, if the electromagnetic elements in us are purged of their hampering environments (human body), they become perfect/refined such that they can see and hear things beyond the normal limits of sight and hearing. We shouldn't lose sight of the fact that human being is an evolved and highly refined form of the very tiny atoms and elements which constitutes say a magnet or an electric conductor.

Also, the acquisition of wealth in this world of tests and trials does not necessarily depict Divine blessings and God's pleasure upon an individual, neither do the experience of poverty show God's displeasure on an individual. Again, no human being on this earth is in the capacity of rewarding us for the various religious beliefs we hold, and thus there ought to be a Higher Being who is outside and above the ken of human existence to bestow such a reward. All these expositions thus makes it reasonable that there ought to be a transition of our current state into a different (higher) form and this is the Islamic philosophy behind death, viz.; Every soul shall taste of death (Holy Quran ch3 vrs186).

The Muslim world and mankind of this age owe a lot of gratitude to that ardent devotee of the Seal of Prophets<sup>saw</sup>, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> of Qadian, Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, who, for

the first time established the fact that Jesus<sup>as</sup> did not bodily ascend to heaven and he is thus, never going to bodily descend to this earth; but rather died a natural death at the ripe age of 120 after being saved from the Cross, on an accursed death the Jews had plotted against him.

He further explained that in accordance with the biblical prophecy (i.e. Then Jesus replied, I have been sent only to the lost sheep of the people of Israel, Mathew 15:24), Jesus<sup>as</sup> travelled and preached to the lost tribes of Israel who had dispersed at that time to places like Afghanistan, Kashmir, Tibet etc. as a result of the cruel leadership they experienced in Israel under the reign of King Nebuchad-nezzar. He then died while preaching to the lost tribes of Israel where his tomb is now well preserved in Srinagar, Kashmir on a street called Khanyar street. The local people knew him as an Israelite Prophet who had travelled to that town and embarked on his prophetic mission with the name Yus Asaf.

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***...for the first time established the fact that Jesus<sup>as</sup> did not bodily ascend to heaven and he is thus, never going to descend bodily to this earth, but rather died a natural death...***

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This was not a mere assertion by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> but was rather based on Divine guidance, authentic historical and medical records as well as verses from the Holy Quran and reliable ahadith. However on hearing this, most Non-Ahmadi Muslims normally raise a clamor; What authentic hadith states that Hadhrat Isa<sup>as</sup> is dead! We also retort; And what greater ahadith or sunnah can convince us of the fact that Hadhrat Isa<sup>as</sup> is dead when the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> himself died as a sunnah or 'live hadith' for us? It wasn't thus surprising when the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> was addressed in the Holy Quran as: *Say, My prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are all for Allah, the Lord of the worlds (Holy Quran Ch6 vrs163).*

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# WORKING TOWARDS OUR FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

By Muhammad Hussain Acquah, Muhtamim Tabligh, MKA (Southern Ghana)

**B**eing educated is not enough and having a profession is not the solution. But your ability to position yourself at a place of interest where your gift, Skills, talents, knowledge and experiences are most needed together with the readiness and determination to exploit the opportunities available are the secrets to finding career success and fulfillment. You can make every place a starting point for a better future. All you need is to be careful not to be locked up by your past. Don't be down about your present situation and don't be afraid of the future. But in all situations, plan according to God's perfect will for your life, and that better future will not elude you. Failing and making mistakes are the only way to make true progress in something new. It has been said that the only way to be staggeringly successful is to double your rate of failure. That is not as silly as it may seem. If you don't make mistakes you aren't pushing yourself into new realms of possibility. When challenges come you need to handle it with power of prayer. Because different situations and circumstances, Almighty Allah knows all. He has more than what you need or desire. It is very significant to trust in Allah with all your heart and let him know that you are leaning on him for help. This is the way forward. If you lean on your own understanding you will fail. If you trust in your own strength you will fail. If you trust in men you will be disappointed.

If you trust in any idol, evil powers, wealth or anything other than the true and the Almighty Allah, you will fail woefully. If, however you trust in Allah, you will be helped and you will not be ashamed. When Almighty Allah helps you then you succeed and prosper in all your ways and in everything you do. For, according to Albert Hubbard, "the best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today". If Allah is what you have, surely you have all what you need. In every desert of trial Allah has an oasis of comfort. With him whatever will not allow you to rest would be laid to rest. He will put end to the war preventing your glory from coming out and every eyes would see the glory of Allah in your life. It is true that no one celebrates those who have tried but those who had succeeded. We need to step forward in spite of difficulties. Having problems is not a problem but rather a lesson.

The story of venomous snakes which were being ferried from Africa to Europe in a plane is a big lesson for everybody. Unfortunately the person who packed the snakes forgot to lock the box in which the snakes were put. Once the plane had taken off and responding to the movement of the plane, the snakes found their way out of the box. Passengers in the plane could see various snakes on the aisle. They screamed, some fainted and the brave ones sought refuge wherever they could within the plane. The air hostess ran to the pilot to inform him of this scary incident.

The pilot quickly informed the air controllers on the ground. "We are very very sorry, says his boss. We forgot to lock the box where we put the snakes. They are indeed some of the most poisonous snakes in the world. So where can I land? Please advise me before passengers are bitten, asks the shaky pilot. No do not land, stay there for a minute, let me think, advises the boss. Surely this sounds like stupid advice to the impatient pilot. But he has to follow the orders. A minute is too long for someone faced with such trouble he thinks. But he has to follow orders. After a minute, the boss contacts him. At what altitude are you flying he asks. "300", says the pilot. Go higher, advises the boss. But the snakes will..... before he finishes his sentence, the boss bellows "I said go higher. He complies. Now what's your altitude, asks the boss? 500.66, answers the shaken pilot. Go higher but sir... "I said go higher captain." He complies. By now the snakes are all over the plane even one male member of the cabin crew collapses. It is unbearable.

A few have been bitten and have instantly died. But still the majority keeps on seeking refuge. Now captain, keep on going higher, says the boss. The pilot complies and keeps on going higher and higher Now, what's your altitude asks the pilot. I am reaching 1200, replies the pilot. Now I am on 1200, he says quickly. Now, stay there. Tell the cabin crew that at this altitude, the snakes are now harmless. They can just pick them up with their hands and return them to the box and this time they should not forget to lock. Advises the boss. This is true. One cabin crew member tries holding one snake. It is numb and harmless.

Soon it is a game within the plane with passengers, some for the first time holding snakes in their hands and returning them to the box. Look at this black mamba, it was really after me and now I can even throw it and catch it like a ball, says one passenger even throwing and catching the black mamba. This was the end of the seemingly dangerous ordeal in the plane. Even those who had fainted were resuscitated and they gain consciousness. Now what is the lesson of the story?

In 2015, the snakes or problems of 2014 will follow you. However, there is the need for you to increase your altitude in prayer. And surely, there is a certain point in praying that you will reach and this is the point when even the most seemingly unconquerable problems are defeated; they lose power. Allah is going to shift things around for you today and let things work in your favor. If you believe, say amen. If Allah closes doors no man can open it and if he opens doors no man can close it. If you need Almighty Allah to open some doors for you, keep on praying and repose your confidence in Almighty Allah only. It will be well with you. For, a scholar once said: "Nobody can go back and make a new beginning but anyone can start today to make better ending. Happiness keeps you sweet, trials keep you strong, sorrows keep you human, failures keep you humble, success keeps you glowing, but only Almighty Allah keeps you going. It is well. AMEN

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**If you trust in any idol, evil powers, wealth or anything other than the true and the Almighty Allah, you will fail woefully. If, however you trust in Allah, you will be helped and you will not be ashamed. When Almighty Allah helps you then you succeed and prosper in all your ways and in everything you do.**

# WHAT WILL MAKE YOU RICH

## Story of the Edition

from: Ibrahim Asare, Nazim Isha'at, Ashanti Region

A coastal village received an advanced tsunami warning. The siren sent warning sounds throughout the village. Everyone was thrown into a panic from making sure that they have their loved ones with them before fleeing. The richest villager who was a merchant was also on his way to higher ground, having gathered his family and some basic belongings. However, while fleeing, he found himself thinking about the possessions he had left behind. Eventually, he could not stand the thought of not bringing more money with him. "It sure wouldn't feel good to have to start from scratch once again," the merchant muttered to himself at the thought of what would happen after the flood. In a flash, he recalled with a grimace about how hard he had to work for his trade. He remembered that his work had not only brought him great wealth but respect from his fellow villagers.

The merchant decided to turn back. "Maybe, just maybe, there will be enough time to pack a thousand gold coins," he thought. His wife and four children tried to dissuade him, thinking that he was mad to consider going back. He tried to assure them that he will be fine and that he will catch up with them soon enough. The merchant started to retrace his steps hurriedly. On the return journey back to his home, his friends – who were all running uphill – shouted to him, "Don't be foolish? You need to flee now!"

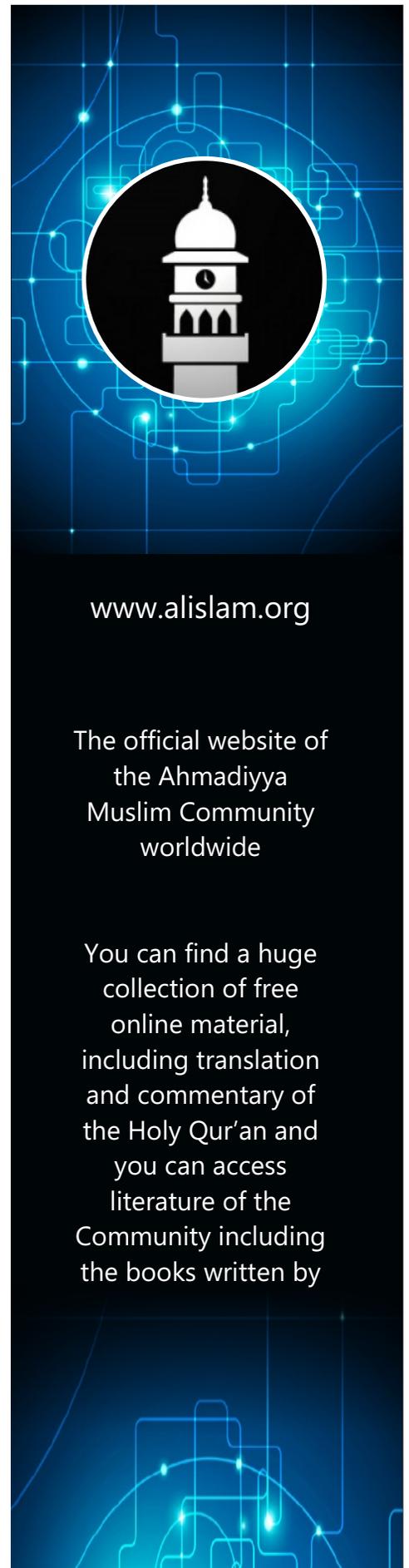
Determined to get his gold coins, the merchant ignored all the warnings. He was lucky. He managed to reach his house safely. He ran to his room and took out the hidden tin box from under the bed. Even though he could tell by the weight of the tin box that it contained something heavy, he decided to open the box just to make sure nonetheless. It was tightly sealed. He managed to pry it open after a few attempts. The sight of the gleaming gold coins made him extremely happy.

As the merchant was about to leave his house with his gold coins, he thought that it would be nice to also bring along the valuable statue displayed in his living room. So, once more, he delayed his decision to flee. He found a sack to carry his worldly possessions. From one item to the next, he started to pack, so much so that he lost track of time and the coming flood.

Needless to say, the merchant did not make it alive. Just before he drowned, he noted with much regret that he would not be able to see his beloved family again. The flood washed away his home. His sack of treasures is still lost somewhere in the open sea.

### **Story Message:**

***The message from "The Rich Merchant in a Tsunami" is about not losing our sanity over material things. Losing our sanity happens when we are overly attached to our possessions. On the other hand, if we have an abundance mind set, we would not be having strong attachments to material things. We would know that we have every ability to create work from our rich ideas. Having money does not equate to true wealth but most certainly, having an abundance of ideas does.***



# NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

## ASHANTI REGION

### Outreach programmes for Regional Aamila

Story by *Bipuah Hanif, Qaid Ilaqa, Ashanti Region*

An outreach programme was carried out in the month of March 2015 to visit Circuits (outside of Kumasi city) during which a group of Aamila members decentralized to the hinter Jama'ats sometimes taking days before returning to their individual homes. Mr. Ennin Mahmoud and Sadique Osei went to Mmrewa, Nkronua, Nframanyo and Lineso, all of Sefwi Circuit, over two days. Mr. Saeed Jamal Baidoo (Naib Qaid I) and Harun Kwame Arthur also spent two days visiting Kojaba, Juaboso, and Asuontaa, all in the Sefwi Circuit.

The Nazim Tabligh, Mr. Dawood Ahmad Asante went to Denkyira Circuit and spent one week in Boabeng to help in tarbiyyat of a new Jamaat and moved over to Bethlehem for another two days. Mr. Rashid Ofosu-Poku and Mr. Ibrahim Asare also went to the same circuit and visited Dunkwa within a day. Mr. Abdul Wahab Adusei was at Kokofu in the Amansie East circuit. Mr. Abdul Wahab Ibrahim and Mr. Mahmood Musah also travelled to Amudurasi in the Adansi South circuit. Mr. Latif Frimpong Jamal, Mr. Abdur Rahman Akwasi and Mr. Ishmael Aidoo were at Obuasi to see the Majlis in the Adansi West circuit.

Mr. Suleiman Ahmed also visited the Nkawie Circuit Majlis at Nkawie while Mr. Ahmed Aboagye and Ustaz Mustapha Yamoah went to Konongo in the Asante Akim circuit. Mr. Dawood Ahmad Asante again visited Offinso Amoawi in the Kumasi District circuit where Mr. Hamzah Abdulai later followed. Mr. Mahadi Dawood and Mr. Rasheed Nurudeen visited Mprim & Mampong Jama'ats, both in the Sekyere West Circuit. Mr. Rasheed Nurudeen also visited Asokore in the Sekyere East Circuit.

The Qaid Ilaqa, Mr. Bipuah Hanif, visited Nsuta in the Adansi South and Nkawie circuit to meet Majlis members and to encourage them to increase their effort in serving Jama'at and to obey Khilafat at all times. These two were the 9th and 10th circuits visited as part of his program to visit all circuits during the Majlis year. May the Most Merciful God be our helper and increase us in faith so we may serve the Majlis to the best of our abilities. Amen

### Khuddam donate blood to Hospitals in the Ashanti Region

Story by *Bipuah Hanif, Qaid Ilaqa, Ashanti Region*

In February, the Majlis undertook a region wide blood donation exercise spanning 10 out of the 13 Circuits (including Asante Akim, Amansie East, Adansi West, Kumasi District, Sekyere West, Sekyere East, Asafo, Atonsu, Oforikrom & Nkawie). Out of over 160 participants, 97 units of blood were successfully mobilized for 6 different health institutions located in the respective circuit centers or close by.

All Circuits had been given the assignment to carry out a blood donation exercise at least, before the turn of the Majlis year and this target looks well within achievement. Qaideen D'ila and the Nazim

Khidmat-e-Khalq, Mr. Abdul Wahab Ibrahim have been very hardworking in this regard and plans to see the remaining circuits through in the next couple of months.

Extensive media coverage was arranged for the exercise from both print, web and radio sources. Some notable media partners in this exercise included Ghanaweb.com, Ghanaian Times, Radio Ghana, Garden City Radio, Luv Fm, Nhyira Fm, and a host of other radio stations across the various donation centers. The Majlis, on behalf of the Sadr Majlis and the entire membership of the Majlis, wishes to extend sincere appreciation to all health institutions, media partners and other stake-holders for their roles well played.

### Tabligh Stand at KNUST

Story by *Bipuah Hanif, Qaid Ilaqa, Ashanti Region*

The effort to take the message of Ahmadiyya to tertiary institutions was furthered this year on the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Campus. The Shooba Umur-e-Talaba in collaboration with AMSAG-KNUST secured a preaching stand during the 5 day Annual TRATECH Fair held from February 23 to 27, 2015 at the Campus Museum. A handsome variety of Islamic literature with lead on Ahmadi sources were displayed and advertised. Editions of the 'Review of Religions' and 'World Crises and Pathway to Peace' were displayed and some distributed to interested students. Over 120 leaflets on topics concerning Jihad and extremism, the true teachings of Islam, the true teachings of Ahmadiyyat and other topics were distributed.

Many individual discussions were held with Non-Ahmadi Muslims, Christians and others who had issues with our teaching, or sort to understand the standpoint of Islam on contemporary extremist activities of so called Muslims in the Muslim Majority World. Others approached us with already thought out arguments which our resource persons worked effortlessly in responds to. A number of individual contacts were made to continue the discussions afterwards.

This activity has gone on in K.N.U.S.T for about half a decade now and has always been under the auspices of AMSAG-KNUST. The efforts of Ahmadi students in K.N.U.S.T is commendable with particular gratitude to Mr. Haneef Forson, Miss Hawa Odoom and Miss Jamirah Bint Ahmed (Teaching Assistant). I also extend gratitude to Mr. Osei Sadique (Naib Nazim Tarbiyyat), Mr. Aimann Dawood (Nazim Umure Talaba) and all Khuddam of AMSAG. May Allah be our helper! Jazaakumullah

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### BRONG AHAFO

#### 23rd Annual Regional Rally Held

Story by *Qamar Bin Osman, Qaid Ilaqa*

The Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya of Brong Ahafo region held their 23rd Annual Regional Ijtema at Dormaa on 3rd and 4th April, 2015, under the theme *“Obedience And Submission: A Catalyst For National Development”*. The rally was graced by the attendance of the revered Sadr Majlis, Abdul Noor Wahab Sahib and six of his national Aamila during the opening ceremony.

Other dignitaries and invited guests included Professor James Agyenim Boateng (Board Chairman, Sunyani Polytechnic), Nana Oppong Kyekyeku Ababio (Dormaa Gyasi Krontehene), DSP Mahmoud Yussif (District Police Commander), the Regional Missionary and President as well as the Dormaa Circuit President.

As part of the program, the 285 Khuddam and 23 Atfal in attendance embarked on a route match. The Atfal also had a session allotted for their activities. In addition, there was a blood donation exercise out of which 45 pints of blood was raised for the Dormaa Presbyterian Hospital. The Honorable District Chief Executive, Mr. Gordon Asubonteng, showed ample solidarity with his presence and kind words of encouragement and gratitude for the generous donation. ■

#### B.A Khuddam starts Bee Farming

Story by *Qamar Bin Osman, Qaid Ilaqa*

The Majlis of Brong Ahafo region has successfully established a bee farm at Techiman in accomplishment of the consolidated program of activities for the department of Sinat-o-Tijarat. The bee farm commenced operations on 29th March, 2015 with 12 bee hives constructed and installed for honey production.

At the inauguration of the farm, the Qaid Ilaqa, Qamar Bin Osman sahib intimated that, the purpose of the farm was to generate income for funding some Majlis activities in the region. The Qaid Ilaqa also pledged at the inauguration on behalf of the 15 Khuddam present and all members of the Majlis in his region to increase the number of hives in due cause in order to maximize production.

May Allah bestow His choicest blessings and favors on the farm, and make it a lasting success. ■

#### B.A Khuddam support Frankmay New Life Foundation

Story by *Qamar Bin Osman, Qaid Ilaqa*

On 29th March, 2015, Brong Ahafo Khuddam made a donation to Frankmay New Life Foundation, an orphanage in Techiman. The donation consisted of assorted items such as bags of rice, gallons of cooking oil, boxes of soap, cartons of biscuits and assorted drinks worth GH¢830.00. The programme came to an end with an erection of a directional post to the orphanage. This gesture was in fulfilment of the Islamic principle of service to humanity and also to accomplish the Majlis consolidated program of activities for the Khidmat-e-Khalq department.

May the Gracious and Most Forgiving Lord guide the orphans and make them useful members of the society. Amen ■



### CENTRAL EAST

#### Central East Region Inaugurated

Story by *Suleman Entsie, Nazim Isha'at, C/E*

In 1921 the then Gold Coast, now Ghana, a new faith called Ahmadiyya Muslim Movement emerged in Saltpond under the spiritual headship of Maulvi S. R. Nayyar of India. The Central Region, the hub of the faith has soared in population and jama'ats and it became imperative for the partition of the region for ease of administration and spiritual direction.

On the 8th February, 2015, the Ameer and Missionary-in-Charge of Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Ghana, Alhaj Maulvi Mohammed Noor Bin Salih officially opened the new region, Central East Region with Gomoa Mangoase as its headquarters.

According to the Ameer 'The astronomical increase in population and rise in the number of circuits made the regional and circuit level administration very cumbersome for the managers of the Jama'at and hence the division of the Central Region for ease of spiritual and secular administration'. The Revered Ameer recounted the dedication and efforts of early Muslims towards the propagation of the faith and implored the jama'at to do same. Ameer made explicit call on Nananom and other dignitaries to accept the fact that the long awaited Messiah (Jesus Christ<sup>as</sup>) has come and Ahmadis are his community. He bravely asked the Paramount Chief and MP of Gomoa East to embrace Islam Ahmadiyya. He formally unveiled the new mission house and the Central East Region.

With regards to Majlis in the Central East Region, Mr. Abdul-Noor Wahab, Sadr, Majlis Khuddam-ul Ahmadiyya, Ghana appointed Mr. Abdul Malik Hammond as the Qaid Ilaqa for the new region. Sadr urged him to work even harder to merit the division. The Qaid assumed office as substantive Qaid Ilaqa on the 1st of February, 2015. He made various appointments to assist him in the discharge of his duties. ■

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### CENTRAL EAST REGION

#### Central East Region marks first Atfal Rally

Story by *Suleman Entsie, Nazim Isha'at, C/E*

**M**ajlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya of Central East Region held its first ever rally at Bredem of Asikuma Circuit on 1st and 2nd of May, 2015. The rally dubbed: **“Obedience To Authority; The Prime Obligation Of A Tifl”** was graced by the Regional Missionary, Maulvi Muhammed Noor Ehsan, the Muthamin Atfal, Circuit Missionaries, Qaid Ilaqa, Aamila members and 427 Atfal.

In attendance was the District Chief Executive of Asikuma– Odoben– Brakwa, Hon. Samuel Adom Botchwey who described the theme as timely and appropriate and urged the Atfal to show obedience to parents and elderly people.

Various games such as blind race, musical chairs and soccer were played. Denkyira Circuit won the soccer competition. Academic competitions were also held and evenly won by the 9 Circuits with Brakwa winning the general Quiz by Master Saeed Khalid. ■

#### Tifl donates flag

Story by *Suleman Entsie, Nazim Isha'at, C/E & Ishmael Arthur, Qaid Di'la, Mando, C/E*

**T**he Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Brakwa Circuit in the Central East Region marked its first rally at Fosuansah. The well attended rally was organized to rejuvenate the faith of the Majlis and the entire jama'at.

During the historic rally, a 13 year old tifl of Brakwa Fosuansah, Master Mahdi Inkoom Jnr designed and donated a banner for the historic rally. The tifl who wish to pursue a career in visual arts said he made that sacrifice to encourage others to do same.

The rally was graced by dignitaries like the Chief of Fosuansah, Assemblyman for the area, and Pastor of New Apostolic Church. ■

#### Khuddam donate to Osamkrom Prisons

**K**huddam of Central East Region has donated used clothing to the Osamkrom Prison inmates. The donation was made to show love and kindness to the inmates and also to propagate the beauty of Islam.

The event was graced by Maulvi Muhammed Eshan Noor (Regional Missionary, Central East Region), Usman Yaw Baidoo (Naib Sadr, Southern Sector, MKAG), Fadl Rahman Essel (Additional Muthamim Isha'at, MKAG), Abdul Malik Hammond (Qaid Ilaqa-Central East) and Mr. Sadique Bin Usman (Central West Qaid Ilaqa). Other Aamila members were present. The Qaid made the donation and asked the officers to accept the offer as a sign of good will to the inmates.

The Chief Prison Officer and his deputy expressed appreciation to the Jama'at Ahmadiyya, the Regional Missionary and all Khuddam present. About 20 Khuddam attended the event. ■

#### Waqar-e-Amal activities marked in the region

Story by *Suleman Entsie, Nazim Isha'at, C/E and Ishmael Arthur, Qaid Di'la, Mando, C/E*

The Majlis Khuddam of Owomase local of Denkyira Circuit and Anamonse Jama'at of Essiam Circuit on Saturday, 7th February, 2015, embarked on a historic waqar-e-amal. Since Muslims are compelled by the hadith and sunnah of the Holy Prophet Mohammed<sup>SAW</sup> to respect the dead, the Majlis of Enyan Owomase cleared the bush at the Muslim cemetery.

We'd like to hear from you.  
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Website: www.mkaghana.org

Dignitaries who graced the event were the Assembly-man of the Area, Mr. Mahdi Kwame Atuam, Mr Abdul Malik Hammond (Qaid Ilaqa, Central East), the two Nazimeen Waqar-e-Amal, Asikuma Qaid and Nazim Sannat-O-Tijarat, Mr Ishaque Obeng.

The Honourable Assemblyman seized the occasion to ask Allah's blessings for the Majlis and urged them to keep up with the good gesture and educated them on the essence of fulfilling the five obligatory daily salat. The Regional Qaid also showed appreciation to the Majlis for organising the activity and assured them of his prayers and support. In all 30 Khuddam and 20 Atfal took part in the exercise.

In another development, the Khuddam of Assasan Jama'at in the Mando Circuit undertook a waqar-e-amal exercise at Ajumako District Hospital on the 22nd day of February, 2015. The activities embarked on were scrubbing of the floors, desilting of choked gutters, and weeding around the hospital.

The hospital authorities expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Khuddam and called on the Majlis to pay more of such visits. Present at the Waqar-e-Amal were Mr. Nabeel Mensah (Add. Nazim Talim), Mr. Ishmael Arthur (Mando Qaid), Mr. Fareed Mensah and the Essiam Qaid Di'la. 37 Khuddam participated. ■



Master Mahdi Inkoom Jnr with the banner he designed and donated to the Brakwa Circuit.

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### CENTRAL WEST REGION

#### Blood Donation to Hospital

Story by *Hassan Yaw Adjei, Nazim Isha'at, CW/R*

**M**ajlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya of Central West Region, donated 29 pints of blood to the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital (CCTH). They also undertook a four-hour clean-up exercise by cleaning choked gutters and weedy surroundings to help maintain a clean environment at the Hospital. Mr. Sadique Bin Usman, Qaid Ilaqa said it was the tradition of the Ahmadiyya Movement to take keen interest in cooperate activities and that the clean-up exercise and the blood donation were in fulfilment of the Islamic teachings of love and sacrifice to mankind.

The Qaid advised the nation's youth to desist from activities that are detrimental to their development, so that they can be useful to their families and the nation. He urged other religious bodies and corporate institutions to regularly embark on such programs. Mr. Martin Ampofo, the Principal Blood Organizer at the CCTH underscored the need for people to donate blood to guarantee satisfactory stocks to enable the hospital attend to emergencies promptly. The Khuddam interacted with patients and also distributed leaflets on Islam to them.

The event was wholly covered and broadcasted by the GTV, GBC and the GNA. May Allah reward all who contributed in diverse ways to make the program a success. Amen ■

#### Majlis holds 34th Annual Rally

Story by *Sadique Bin Usman, Qaid Ilaqa, CW/R*

**O**n the 11th and 12th April, 2015, 428 Khuddam and 302 Atfal converged at the St. Nicholas Anglican Basic School for the Regional Rally under the theme “*Religious tolerance, a pre-requisite for national peace*”. The rally was attended by 13 National Executives including Sadr Mulk, Mr. Abdul Noor Wahab. The Sadr chaired the final session where he advised members to learn hard to continue the good works of our predecessors.

A day before the rally, the Regional Qaid and two Regional Executives were interviewed by Eagle FM in Cape Coast on the purpose of the rally and Ahmadiyya in general. Media men from Radio Ghana, GNA, Ghana Today newspaper, YES FM and Eagle FM covered the rally.

The Regional Crime Officer of the Ghana Police Service advised the Khuddam on the need to eschew negative practices. Members engaged in sports and academic competitions.

Members marched through the principal streets of Cape Coast during the route march. The early morning rain did not prevent members from undertaking the route march. The Naib Sadr Southern Sector, Mr. Usman Yaw Baidoo, Muhtamim Tarbiyyat Ustaz Ishaque Amfo, Muhtamim Tabligh Mr. Hussain Acquah and Umuru Talaba Mr. Alhassan Atta-Quayson delivered various speeches during the rally. ■

#### Central West organizes Atfal sports festival

Story by *Osman Bin Saeed, Nazim Atfal, CW/R*

**T**he Majlis in Central West Region organized an Atfal sports festival on 27th December, 2014 at Mankessim. The motive for this festival was to inculcate in the Atfal the spirit of love, unity of purpose and to engage them during the Christmas festivities. The participating Circuits were Abura, Cape Coast, Essakyire and Otuam.

Mr. Osman Bin Saeed, Nazim Atfal for Central West gave a speech with reference from the Holy Quran 4:158 to 159, on the crucifixion of Hazrat Isa<sup>™</sup> (Jesus), son of Mary, stating that

he was neither crucified nor killed but he was saved from the crucifixion by Allah.

The occasion was well attended by 116 Atfal and supported by 14 Khuddam from the participating Circuits. Various forms of sporting events took place including football, musical chairs and pin my cup. There was also a route match to climax the event. Abura Circuit Atfal eliminated Essakyir Circuit in the first match with a 2 – 0 score. Otuam Circuit also qualified to the finals by scoring Cape Coast Circuit by 5 goals to 1. Abura and Otuam played in the final of which Abura emerged as the overall winner. ■

#### Majlis Khuddam join Inde'ce Day march

Story by *Hasan Yaw Adjei, Nazim Isha'at, C/W*

**O**n 6th March, 2015, 32 Khuddam and Atfal mainly from Cape Coast and Abura Circuits took part in the Independence Day parade held at the Jubilee Park, Cape Coast. The Khuddam placed third in the Youth Organization Category.

Jama'at leaflets were distributed at the function. The leader of the Adventist Youth met the Regional Qaid and requested for a photograph with the Khuddam after which they exchanged phone numbers. The Adventist requested the Qaid to invite them to Majlis programme. The Muhtamim Sihat-e-Jismane, Mr. Musah Kofi Amissah and Tarbiyyat Southern Sector, Ustaz Ishaque Amfo participated in the March. ■



# NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

## EASTERN REGION

### Annual Regional Ijtema Held

Story by *Nasir Ahmed, Nazim Isha'at, E/R*

The 16th Annual Regional Rally of the Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Eastern Region was held on 29th and 30th May, 2015 at Nkawkaw. The theme for the Ijtema was “**A Nation Cannot Be Reformed without First Reforming its Youth**”. The Nkawkaw Circuit Missionary, Ustaz Ibrahim Dantse, officially opened the rally after Friday prayers. The rally attracted 70 participants made up of 19 Atfal and 51 Khuddam drawn from five (5) Circuits ie. Nkawkaw, Akim Oda, Koforidua, Asamankese and Kibi.

The final session was chaired by Mr. Abdul Noor Wahab, Sadr-Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Ghana on 30th May, 2015. He was accompanied by five (5) of his National officers. Qaid Ilaqa Mr. Malek Appiah Affum, in his welcome address, recounted various obstacles the Majlis had to surmount before organizing the rally. He expressed his gratitude to the Organizing Committee and the entire participants, some of whom had travelled long distances within the region and out of the region to participate in the rally.

Speaking on the theme, Mr. Malek Appiah Affum stated that as Ahmadi youth, the distinction between us and other youngsters who are misguided and ready to kill in the name of Islam is that we follow the institution of Khilafat which gives us guidance. It is through obedience to his instructions that we will be free from extremist acts and corruption and make the nation great and prosperous.

Sadr Mulk, Mr. Abdul Noor Wahab, informed the participants about the Khuddam Building Project and their obligation to make financial contributions. Sadr Sahib also advised members to take the salat assessment exercise seriously as it is a directive from the Khalifa. Certificates were given to members who excelled in the various disciplines. Akim Oda Circuit won both the volleyball and football matches. A citation was presented to Ustaz Jamaludeen Donkoh, the immediate past Regional Qaid, for his dedication and service during his tenure. Life FM, a radio station at Nkawkaw, covered the rally. ■

### Tabligh with a team of Jehovah's Witnesses

Story by *Mohammed Opoku, Nazim Tabligh, E/R*

The Qaid Ilaqa, Eastern Region, Malek Affum and his Nazim Tabligh, Mohammed Opoku participated in a religious discussion with a team of Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) on Wednesday, 1st April, 2015 at Tabita in the Akim Oda Circuit. The programme was organized by the Qaid Di'la of Tabita, K.B Jibraeel. The discussion was focused at identifying the true way of worship according to the Holy Bible and Holy Qur'an and also to learn about the deep relationship between the two beliefs and foster religious tolerance and dialogue.

The leader of the JW outlined some similarities between the two faiths such as Oneness of God, a common name (Allah, Jehovah) and slaughtering of animals by the throat. However, the JW did not agree with Muslims picking up arms and going to war since it results in death. Mr. Opoku explained that if Allah had not given Muslims permission to fight against their oppressors, there would have been so much mischief and chaos in the world (HQ2v252) and also they fought to protect cloisters and churches, synagogues and mosques (QC22v40, 41).

On the subject of identifying the true religion, the JW explained that their way of worship according to Jesus Christ is to follow the laws of God and spread the good news by preaching (Luke 8:1, Luke 10:1, Matt 10:7) whereas the Khuddam supported their stance with verses from the Holy Qur'an and the Bible regarding ablution, removal of footwear and prostration during worship. On the lighter side, one of the JW asked for Romans (a chapter in the Bible) to be opened from the Qur'an. This implies that the Khuddam have to do more education

about Islam and Ahmadiyyat to the public. At the end of the discussion, leaflets on Ahmadiyyat were given to the group.

Mr. Opoku requested them to watch “Islam in Perspective” on Adom TV, “Contemplations” on GTV and listen to Sunrise FM (106.7 & 102.1MHZ) and Agoo FM for more insight into our teachings. ■

### Kibi & Koforidua Majlis hold Circuit Ijtema

Story by *Musah Ofori (Kibi Circuit Qaid) & Ahmed Ante (Koforidua Circuit Qaid)*

Malek Affum, Qaid Ilaqa, Eastern Region, has educated Khuddam in Kibi and Koforidua Circuits on the importance of the salat assessment book, the consolidated programme of activities and their duty to Khalifatul Masih V(atba) and advised them to fully adhere to directives from their executives. He said this during their Annual Ijtema (Kibi on 19th April, 2015 at Ettukrom and at Koforidua on 24th-25th April, 2015) which attracted 34 Khuddam and 14 Atfal.

During both rallies, the Regional Missionary, Maulvi Yassin Rabbani said that “only words will not suffice but our actions. Therefore every Khaadim should check himself to see what he is doing for the development of the Majlis and the jamaat at large”. If we work for God, God will also work for us and we will be rewarded in this life and in the Hereafter. The Regional President, Alhaji Mustapha Oti Boateng, cautioned the Khuddam to fear Allah and be thankful for being Ahmadis.

Speeches delivered were ‘*The Importance of Salat*’, ‘*The Responsibilities of a Khaadim*’ and ‘*The Importance of Education and Tabligh*’. There was a health talk by Nasir Aidoo, a Khaadim from NHIS who briefed members on the need to join the scheme. He revealed that about 95% of diseases in Ghana are covered by the scheme. ■

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### EASTERN REGION

#### Regional Qaid visits new converts

Story by *Malek Appiah Affum, Qaid Ilaqa, E/R*

On 17th April, 2015, the Eastern Regional Qaid, Malek Appiah Affum visited new converts at Kwaboadi No 2, a newly established jama'at under Akim Oda Circuit to officially introduce the Majlis to the new converts and explain to them the activities and their obligations in the jama'at as a whole. There were 7 Khuddam and 1 Tifl.

The new Khuddam converts shared their experiences with the Qaid on how they accepted Ahmadiyyat. One of the converts said that he had decided with his friends long ago to join Islam. But when his friends joined the Non-Ahmadis he hesitated until he heard the message of Ahmadiyyat and made ba'iat. A copy of Review of Religions and Khaadim magazine each were donated to them. ■



The Regional Qaid Malek Affum, with the new converts Suleiman (left), Musah (middle) and Larweh (right).

#### Atfal Day marked

Story by *Mohammed Buabeng, Nazim Isha'at, GAR*

Mr. Nasir Ahmed Bonsu, Greater Accra Qaid Ilaqa, has advised Atfal in the region to say their five daily salat regularly and at its appointed time. He said the purpose of every man irrespective of race, colour, status and gender is to worship Allah. "Salat saves mankind from all sort of sins" he added. The Qaid spoke during a 1-day Ijte'ma for the Majlis Atfal in the Greater

### GREATER ACCRA REGION

#### Donation and Waqar-e-amal at Osu Childrens Home

Story by *Nasir Bonsu, Qaid Ilaqa, Greater Accra*

The Holy Quran Chapter 93:10 admonishes Muslims to treat orphans with care. Majlis Khuddam of Greater Accra Region on Sunday, 15th March, 2015 embarked on a clean-up exercise at the Osu Children's Home in Accra and made donation to the orphanage.

The over 5-hour clean up exercise saw members weeding the entire compound of the orphanage home and desilting choked gutters in and around the home. The Waqar-e-Amal exercise was followed by a donation of assorted items to the orphanage home. Items donated included cartons of milo, milk, dozens of toilet rolls, gallons of cooking oil and bags of rice worth One Thousand Ghana cedis (GH¢1000.00).

Madam Christiana Addo, Assistant Manageress of the orphanage, in expressing joy over the Waqar-e-Amal exercise said "I am overwhelmed considering the enthusiastic nature in which the work was done".

Mr Nasir Ahmed Bonsu, Qaid Ilaqa, Greater Accra said the exercise was organised as part of the calendar of activities for the Majlis year and thanked members who worked tirelessly for the success of the program. Mr. Musah Ayangah Diaudeen (Muhtamim Mal) and Mr. Mustapha Amissah (Muhtamim Waqar-e-Amal) were the national officers who graced the occasion. ■

#### Annual Inter-Circuit games held at Bustan-e-Ahmad

Story by *Mohammed Buabeng, Nazim Isha'at, GAR*

Research shows that exercise can help reduce the risk of several diseases and health conditions and improve overall quality of life. The enormous benefits of physical exercise motivated the Nazim Sihat-e-Jismane to organize an annual inter-circuit games in the Greater Accra Region.

This year's event took place on Sunday, 18th January 2015 at Bustan-e-Ahmad. Over 120 members of the Majlis participated in the event. Some Lajna Immaillah and Ansarullah members took part in various activities including skipping rope, athletics and football. Instructors and health professionals from Lloyds Fitness Centre in Accra led participants through aerobic lessons and a health talk. There was also a health screening exercise. The National Health Insurance Authority personnel were present to register members who were not on the scheme. ■

Accra Region on the theme "Importance Of Salat" on Sunday, 15th February, 2015. The Nazim Atfal, Mr. Nasirudeen Amamoo, in his welcoming address expressed worry about parents who refuse to encourage their wards to participate fully in Jama'at activities. He urged members present to remain com-mitted to Islam Ahmadiyya.

The Chairman for the occasion, Ustaz Bashirudeen Zakariyya (Muhtamim Atfal, MKAG) in his closing remarks advised the Atfal to be truthful and desist from telling lies. He was worried about the fact that the Atfal could read, write and speak good English but could not recite the Holy Qur'an. "Your future depends on what lifestyle you live today" he added. He advised them to take the pursuit of religious knowledge seriously.

Over 150 Atfal participated in the rally. There was musical chair, skipping rope and eating com-petitions. Awards were given to deserving participants of the various competitions.

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### GREATER ACCRA

#### Kasoa Majlis holds Circuit rally

Story by *Mohammed Buabeng, Nazim Isha'at, GA/R*

Ustaz Adam Asamoah, Kasoa Circuit Missionary, has advised married men among the Majlis to fear Allah, be faithful to their wives, apologise when they are at fault, express gratitude, control anger, handle money wisely and lastly be loyal to their marriages. "These are the secret to successful marriage" he indicated. The Circuit Missionary was speaking at a rally held by the Kasoa Circuit Majlis Khuddam. The rally was held on 1st March, 2015 under the theme *"Islamic Marriage – Its Importance And Blessings"*. Over 160 members participated in the rally.

In his welcoming address, Mr. Issah Larbi, Kasoa Qaid Di'la thanked members for having participated in the rally. He commended Khuddam for their dedication and hard work. According to the Qaid, the selfless sacrifices from the Majlis have raised the status of the Circuit in the Greater Accra Region.

Ustaz Abdul Wahab Owusu of the National headquarters spoke on the topic *"Importance And Blessings Of Chanda Payment"*. He advised members to be part of the blessed scheme of Chanda because of its religious, economic, social and political connotations.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Nasir Ahmed Bonsu, Qaid Ilaqa, Greater Accra and chairman for the occasion told members to subscribe to the Review of Religions magazine since it also forms part of tabligh and also enlightens the subscriber after reading the book. He admonished members to take the Salat Assessment book seriously because we have pledged as Khuddam to abide by any decision of the Khalifa of the time.

There were fraternal messages from Lajna Imaillah, question and answers on speeches delivered and a launching of fund for Khuddam in the Circuit to purchase a vehicle for activities of the Majlis. ■

### WESTERN REGION

#### Takoradi Circuit organizes Annual Rally

Story by *Adam Tweneboah Koduah, Nazim Ishaat, W/R*

The 21st Annual Rally of the Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Takoradi Circuit branch has been held. The two day rally which was under the theme *"Social Media and Morality: The Challenges of Present Day Islam"*, took place at the Circuit's Mission House at Apremo. The rally attracted over 50 participants made up of Atfal and Khuddam drawn from all 6 jama'ats in the Circuit.

The Guest Speaker, Mr. Mohammed Frimpong, Takoradi Circuit President cited some irresponsible acts and uncouth behaviour such as uploading uncensored videos, pictures and sound bites exhibited by some users of social media. He further admonished the audience about having faith in Allah and shun away from evil and be ardent believers in the Messiah of the age and also be obedient to the injunctions of the Holy Qur'an and Ahadith. Mr. Abdul Aziz Baidoo, Qaid Dila-Takoradi, in his welcoming address, enumerated the challenges that the circuit had to go through before organizing the rally. The Qaid Dila took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the entire membership for the cordial working relations and quick response to duty.

Mr. Benyameen Entsir Keelson, the Western Regional Qaid, who chaired the occasion advised that members can only be true followers of the Promised Messiah(as) when they are obedient to authority and participate in all activities of the jama'at. Academic and sporting activities were also held among Khuddam and Atfal on jama'at basis. Awards and certificates were given to members who excelled in the various disciplines. ■

#### Khuddam donates to Sekondi Central Prisons

Story by *Ben Keelson, Qaid Ilaqa, W/R*

The Western Regional Khuddam in fulfilment of their service to humanity has donated used clothing and food items worth thousands of Ghana Cedis to inmates of the Sekondi Central

Prisons. 236 leaflets on Islam and Ahmadiyyat were distributed to the inmates and the prison officers. Three copies of the book titled, 'World Crisis and Pathway to Peace' authored by the Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad was presented to officers at the facility. The items were made possible through the contributions of members of the various jama'ats in the region.

Making the presentation, the Regional Qaid, Mr. Benyameen Keelson said, the Khuddam were touched by the plight of the inmates hence the donation. He said, reports monitored in the media indicate that inmates in the country's prisons are inadequately fed due to budget constraints. Mr. Keelson noted that, as members living in the same community with the inmates, it was therefore important to stretch a hand of assistance to them. The Qaid assured authorities of the prison of the Khuddam continued support to them whenever the need arises.

Receiving the items, the Deputy Regional Commander of Prisons, ASP Isaac Bisilki commended the Khuddam for the items. He appealed to the general public, philanthropists and churches to follow the example of the Khuddam and come to their aid. ASP Bisilki urged the youth to stay away from crime to prevent them from getting to the prisons. He was disappointed that a large number of inmates who are languishing in the country's prisons are youths and entreated religious bodies to continue preaching virtue to their members.

The inmates expressed their appreciation for the kind gesture. They appealed to the Majlis Khuddam to assist them with kettle for ablution, mats and proper clothing for salat and Holy Qur'an and Yassarnal Qu'ran for their studies. The Khuddam who interacted with the inmates prayed for them and encouraged them to remain steadfast and be of good behaviour during their stay in prison and come out as reformed persons.

Present at the ceremony were the Regional President, Mr. Elias Yusuf Gyampson, the new Regional Missionary, Maulvi Ridwan Kausau, Muhtamad Mulk, Mr. Haneef Sam Keelson and several members of the Regional Aamila. ■

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### NORTH EAST

#### Majlis in Tamale observe National Sanitation Day

On the 7th of February, 2015, 10 members of the majlis joined other youth organizations in Tamale in cleaning the Tamale township. The exercise was organized by the Ministry of Local Government in collaboration with the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly as part of the National Sanitation Day.

The Majlis was assigned a portion opposite the MTN Main office, which extended to the Police Barracks and ended behind the Quality First Mart. The Majlis was given 10 dustbins and 10 Zoomlion branded duty jackets to work with. The Majlis returned that same day to the Tamale Central Mosque to join other members of the Jama'at in another waqar-e-amal which started earlier in the day as part of the National Sanitation Day.

In another development on the 15th of February, 2015, members of the Majlis paid a visit to the Nyohini Children's Home to clean the home. The Majlis were assigned the girls' dormitory and its surroundings. Members cleared, gathered

and burnt bushes around the building. Participants interacted with a Senior member of staff at the Home who briefed them about the activities of the Home. They also interacted with some of the children of the home and shared some candies to them. ■

#### Tamale & Kukuo Games

A football match was organized between the Tamale Circuit and the Kukuo Circuit, the first of its kind in the region over a long period of time. The match took place at Kukuo Circuit. In attendance were 22 Khuddam and two Atfal from Tamale Circuit and 29 Khuddam and 10 Atfal from Kukuo Circuit. ■

# HealthLINE



With Musah Kofi Amissah (Muhtamim Sihat-e-Jismane)

## CONTROLLING DIABETES

In this series we will look at causes of diabetes and how healthy diet and moderate exercise can help control diabetes; today we will look at what diabetes is, its symptoms and types.

Diabetes is a lifelong condition often referred to by doctors as diabetes mellitus, describes a group of metabolic diseases in which the person has high blood glucose (blood sugar), either because insulin production is inadequate, or because the body's cells do not respond properly to insulin, or both.

Not being able to produce insulin or use it effectively leads to raised glucose levels in the blood (known as hyper-glycaemia). Over the long-term high glucose levels are associated with damage to the body and failure of various organs and tissues.

### Types Of Diabetes

**Type 1** diabetes used to be called juvenile-onset diabetes. It is usually caused by an auto-immune reaction where the body's defense system attacks the cells that produce insulin. The reason this occurs is not fully understood. People with type 1 diabetes produce very little or no insulin. The disease may affect people of any age, but usually develops in children or young adults. People with this form of diabetes need injections of insulin every day in order to control the levels of glucose in their blood. If people with type 1 diabetes do not have access to insulin, they will die.

**Type 2** diabetes used to be called non-insulin dependent diabetes or adult-onset diabetes, and accounts for at least 90% of

all cases of diabetes. It is characterized by insulin resistance and relative insulin deficiency, either or both of which may be present at the time diabetes is diagnosed. The diagnosis of type 2 diabetes can occur at any age. Type 2 diabetes may remain undetected for many years and the diagnosis is often made when a complication appears or a routine blood or urine glucose test is done. It is often, but not always, associated with overweight or obesity, which itself can cause insulin resistance and lead to high blood glucose levels. People with type 2 diabetes can often initially manage their condition through exercise and diet. However, over time most people will require oral drugs and or insulin. Both type 1 and type 2 diabetes are serious. There is no such thing as mild diabetes.

### Symptoms

The most common diabetes symptoms include frequent urination, intense thirst and hunger, weight gain,... (cont'd on page 22)



1 & 2. Greater Accra and Brong Ahafo Khuddam clearing weeds and picking rubbish at Baghe Ahmad in preparation for the 2015 Jalsa. 3. A section of the Majlis during the Security workshop. 4. Commander Kamardeen Ali and some security personnel in a discussion with Sadr Mulk on Security arrangements made for the 2015 Jalsa. 5. Ameer Sahib inspecting arrangements made towards the 2015 Jalsa. 6. Ameer Sahib ushering President John Mahama to the Jalsa grounds. 7. President John Mahama taking the National salute during the Jalsa. 8. A section of the Khuddam at the career guidance programme at Sekondi. 9. Regional and National Aamila at a meeting during 2015 Jalsa. 10. Ashanti Region: Sadr Mulk, Abdul Noor Wahab, chairing the Ashanti Regional Rally held at Offinso. 11. Atons Circuit members preparing for the route march during the regional rally. 12. Brong Ahafo: B/A Khuddam donate blood at Dorma Presby Hospital. 13. Regional Majlis marching through the streets of Dormaa as part of the Regional Rally. 14. Regional Missionary presenting an award to a Tifl at the regional rally.

**15. Central East:** Majlis Khuddam of Mando Circuit engaged in waqar- -amal at the Ajumako District Hospital. **16. Central East/ West:** Members of the two regions at the 2015 Independence Day celebrations at Cape Coast. **17.** Anamonse Khuddam digging the foundation pit for their mosque. **18. Greater Accra:** Members of the Kasoa Circuit Aamila of the Majlis Khuddamul Ahmaidyya in a group picture after their Circuit Rally **19.** Mr. Nasir Bonsu, Qaid Ilaqa and his members donating items to the Osu Children's home. **20.** Ustaz Aliu, Naib Sadr - Administration (third from left) leading the Majlis to take the pledge during the regional rally. **21.** Members weeding the compound of the Osu Children's home. **22.** A cross-section of the Atfal at the Atfal rally. **23.** G/A Khuddam taking aerobics prior to the Inter-Circuit games. **24. North East:** Sadr Mulk, Mr. Abdur Noor Wahab with the North East Regional Missionary, Regional President and some dignitaries during the Regional Ijetma'a at Tamale. **25.** Mr. Muhammad Zafurullah, Regional Qaid (second from left), with some Prisons officials and Regional Aamila members after donating items to the Tamale prisons. **26.** North East members donate blood to Tamale Hospital. **27.** Members of Tamale and Kukuio Circuits after the football match. **28. Upper East:** Some members waiting to donate blood at the Bolgatanga Regional Hospital. **29.** Upper East Regional Majlis getting ready for route march as part of the Regional Ijetma'a at Bolgatanga.



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30. Upper East: Waqar-e-Amal at the Upper East Regional Mosque at Bolgatanga. 31. Upper West: Waqar-e-Amal at Gurungu Kaliba Circuit for mosque in the region. 32. Khuddam disilting a gutter at Bagmaarayiri. 33. Khuddam in a waqar-e-amal at the Dobile Mosque. 34. Regional Khuddam at the Regional Tabligh Program. 35. Tug of Peace as part of the Upper West Regional Rally. 36. Eastern Region: Some members of Koforidua Circuit engaged in scrabbles during their Circuit Rally. 37. A group photograph at Nkawkaw after the Regional Rally with Sadr Mulk, Mr. Abdul Noor Wahab and a few of his Aamila. 38. Koforidua Circuit Qaid, Mr. Ahmed Ante addressing the Majlis during their rally. 39. Tabligh with Jehovah's Witnesses in Akim Oda. 40. Akim Oda Circuit Majlis donate blood to the Akim Oda Community Hospital. 41. Brong Ahafo: B/A Regional Executives with the bee hives before they were sent to the farm. 42. Western Region: Regional Qaid Mr. Ben Keelson with some Aamila members during Tarkoradi Circuit Rally. 43. Ameer Sahib, Sadr Mulk, Majlis Khuddam, Sadr Ansuarullah with participants after the Tabligh seminar in Kumasi.



# THE ENTREPRENEUR

With Ahmad Adade Boakye

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP, NOT A CHOICE BUT AN OBLIGATION FOR A KHAADIM

**A** salaamu Alaikum brothers and all readers of this short piece. It is my firm belief that the “general call” for the youth to pursue entrepreneurship as a means of solving the chronic un-employment crisis in Ghana is a true one which embraces all manner of youth group including members of the Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya. I must say I have observed in recent times with a lot of delight the steady increase of Ahmadi youth in entrepreneurship or even attempting it. It is however important to note what the reality is, that is, Ahmadi are a minority in Ghana and our members in absolute terms could pose a challenge to our relevance if we fail to **stand up and be counted**.

Our fore fathers through the land marks made, such as schools, hospitals and colleges as well as participation and showing relevance in important national issues have helped strengthen the **brand Ahmadiyya** in Ghana. It is worthy at this point to mention the priceless role played by the “greatest brand ambassador, who in my opinion is the best single thing that happened to Ahmadiyya Ghana in recent history that is the person of **Maulana Maulvi Abdul Wahab Adam** of blessed memory. What his brand stood for in the public relations and marketing scheme of the Ahmadiyya brand in Ghana is a topic for another time.

**Being an entrepreneur is a high-risk, high-reward position.** It's full of stressful situations, sure, but it's also full of rewards and a sense of accomplishment. It's not as hard as it seems - as long as you have some diligence, patience, and, of course, a good idea, you'll be your own boss sooner than you think!

To some of you, I'm preaching. There are however, a group of people reading this that are trying to decide if they should make the leap into entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship isn't for everyone, but if you do have the bug to experience freedom and still generate income, entrepreneurship can lead to an amazing life. You get to set your own schedule, you get to call the shots and answer to yourself.

Each of us spends 40-plus hours of our week in some form of work or even more hours not working at all. That time could be spent doing something you love or doing something that makes you miserable and affects all other areas of your life. Life is short and time is the one thing we'll never get back. This makes time one of your most valuable resources and you should treat it accordingly. Entrepreneurship gives you the ability to balance your time.

To be fair, you could earn nothing at your business, but those who jump into entrepreneurship are self-motivated to build a profitable business. Entrepreneurs aren't happy with the status quo and continue to grow their business and income. The beauty of entrepreneurship is that there are no gatekeepers to keep your income regulated. It gives you the ability to balance your time.

**For now brothers let's come back to what I meant.** In the era where religious organizations in Ghana built schools and hospitals, Ahmadiyya did same. In this present era, the drive is economic so religious organizations themselves are into businesses and they continuously through calculated seminars and motivational programs to encourage their followers to chart the same course. Mention can be made of Quality Insurance

Company for the Catholics, Donewell Insurance is also for the Methodist church, etc. I was encouraged to note an advertisement made at the mosque towards the employment of a professional to manage the Ahmadiyya Integrated Agricultural Program at Bargh-e-Ahmad.

Business and entrepreneurship is not only encouraged by the Holy Quran but in fact several verses from the Holy Book give guidance on the fair way to conduct it.

“Faith, compulsion, and the readiness to change the world are the drivers of social enterprise”. Even though the goals of religion and social enterprise are not always coextensive, several religious dimensions underlie social entrepreneurship, including institutions, high-trust networks, motivation, leadership discourse, and local leaders. Historically, religious groups have often had strong links with entrepreneurial activities. Religious institutions have played important roles in shaping the actions of religious members and philanthropists through networks and leadership discourse.

A number of western thinkers, in addition to Muslim scholars, have acknowledged the progressive nature of Islam and recognized its positive attitudes towards prosperity and desirability in engaging in productive entrepreneurial activities, in fact permit or encourage entrepreneurship. In fact, entrepreneurship is a part of Islamic culture as showed by Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) and his dear Companions. Islam always invites all Muslims to be innovative, entrepreneurial and active.

## Entrepreneurship, not a choice but an obligation ...

Islam is a religion of knowledge and Islamic tradition has always included a positive approach to economic activity and noted that the **Prophet Muhammad(saw) was a merchant** before his prophetic mission. As a result, a lot of Muslims entrepreneurs become successful entrepreneurs in the world.

In Islam, there is no separation between entrepreneurial activities and religion. Islam has its own entrepreneurship characteristic and guiding principles based on Qur'an and Ahadith to guide entrepreneurship operation. By virtue of the human nature, the person must firstly be a Muslim, then an entrepreneur. He has the responsibility to perform *ibadah* and be a "Khalifah". The Muslim entrepreneur should search for Allah's blessings above all other factors. Muslim entrepreneurs perform entrepreneurial activities not solely for profit, but above all, to fulfill the *fardu kifayah*.

Islam fulfils an important need by providing the means to satisfy both physical and spiritual needs by establishing a framework for behaviour and providing a sense of existence. Islamic moral and ethical values are incentives to achieve greatness of spirit, helping to develop tolerance and empowering with adaptive capacities in response to life's challenging events. Islam provides the individual with a sense of self-respect and family values, and promotes a unified society in a brotherhood imbued with social responsibility.

By applying Islamic norms and values of the characteristic with prudent, use of social, environmental, and economic resources, Islam has created the new communities outside *Al-Jazeera Al-'Arabia* in an innovative entrepreneurial manner. These new communities were given consider-able freedom in how they created their local social and economic values under the umbrella of the Qur'an and Ahadith, maintaining synergetic ties with the Islamic leadership.

Through this unification of scientific, social, ethical, and economic values they were able to prosper for hundreds of years.

Furthermore, social change implemented under Islamic entrepreneurship influenced neighbouring Europe and other geographical regions through social and commercial interaction. The actions of current civilizations provide testimony to the success of Islamic social entrepreneurship as they currently are faced with developing solutions to their own social problems. Entrepreneur and entrepreneurship have a special place in Islam. An Islamic entrepreneurship model is sourced from Quran and Ahadith. Islam sees everything as a comprehensive element in life, including entrepreneurship. Therefore, in Islam, entrepreneurship includes all aspects of life.

These are evidence that, the making of profit in a halal way is welcome and guided by "this Holy book" hence the need for us all to see it as a religious obligation to pursue as Allah in Qur'an has instructed us to go in search of his bounties on earth as believing men and women.

It is a well-established fact that entrepreneurship and small business are the drivers of any economy. In Ghana, the cliché has been "that the private sector is the engine of growth". If this statement is true, then we can say that entrepreneurship and small business could be the engine of the economic growth of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at in Ghana. If my logic is right, I believe if we have a lot more Khuddam in business, it will have a profound positive effect on our chanda payments and sacrifices.

I must hasten to add that entrepreneurship, whether it's an innate traits or a learnt skill is a theory academics have argued over years. My believe however is that it can be learnt and we can all in our own way build something out of it. "Whatever you enjoy doing, please do it for profit", it could be talking, cleaning, painting, comedy etc. **Let us, as Ahmadiyya youth, participate and show up bold at places in Ghana where people are sought for.** Let me leave you with my personal values of Focus, Integrity and Perseverance. Ghana is for all of us.

Wassalam ■

## HealthLINE

(cont from page 17) unusual weight loss, fatigue, cuts and bruises that do not heal, male sexual dysfunction, numbness and tingling in hands and feet.

### QUICK FACTS ON DIABETES

\* **Type 1 Diabetes** - the body does not produce insulin. Approximately 10% of all diabetes cases are type 1. **Type 2 Diabetes** - the body does not produce enough insulin for proper function. Approximately 90% of all cases of diabetes worldwide are of this type.

\* If you have Type 1 and follow a healthy eating plan, do adequate exercise, and take insulin, you can lead a normal life.

\* Type 2 patients need to eat healthily, be physically active, and test their blood glucose. They may also need to take oral medication, and/or insulin to control blood glucose levels. As the risk of cardiovascular disease is much higher for a diabetic, it is crucial that blood pressure and cholesterol levels are monitored regularly.

\* The latest estimates from the IDF Diabetes Atlas indicate that there are 382 million people living with diabetes worldwide. By 2035, 592 million people or one person in ten will have the disease. A further 316 million people are currently at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes, with the number expected to increase to almost 500 million within a generation. What makes the pandemic particularly menacing is that throughout much of the world, it remains hidden. Up to half of all

people with diabetes globally remain undiagnosed.

\* In Ghana, like many developing countries around the world, the erosion of traditional lifestyles and diet is largely causing diabetes. Dr. Kwamena Beecham who is the President of the Ghana Diabetes Association, is reported to have commented: "Most people have moved from the traditional foods to more processed, polished and animal sourced foods that are rich in fats and sugars".

*To be continued....*

**We will clear some misconceptions about diabetes on our next edition. Before we take leave of you, the question is; Do you know your status?**

# My Story

*In this first edition, Ustaz Mumtaz Baidoo from Ghana tells his story.*



## Imprisoned in a foreign land

**M**y name is Ustaz Mumtaz Baidoo, one of the young generation of Missionaries honored to serve Jama'at Ahmadiyya. I was born in Takoradi in the Western Region. I'm the eldest of three children. I attended Ghana Secondary Technical School (GSTS) in Takoradi and then to Jamiatul Mubashireen Ghana for my Missionary training course.

I became a Missionary to fulfil the wish of my father. My father was a Roman Catholic and wanted me to become a Roman Catholic Priest but he became an Ahmadi. My father therefore wanted my younger brother to become a Missionary but unfortunately my brother died. I then decided to become a Missionary so that my father's wish will be fulfilled.

As a Missionary, I have encountered many challenges in my personal life as well as on the Missionary field which I think when told would be a source of inspiration for others. I remember in 2007, I was called by the National Headquarters to partake in a Tarbiyyat program in the North to teach new converts. Missionaries from around Ghana were trained and sent to such communities (particularly the three Northern Regions) to give these new converts the teachings of Ahmadiyya.

At the time I was called to be part of the program, my wife was pregnant and due to deliver in two weeks. It was a big challenge for me to leave my wife. I therefore consulted Alhaj Abdur Rahman Ennin, the Secretary General Affairs of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Ghana to intervene on my behalf. When the head of the Tabligh Center (the late Hafiz Ahmad Jebreel Saeed, the Naib Ameer III) was contacted he insisted that I report for the workshop, so I could join my colleagues after my wife had delivered.

I left for the workshop without any preparations thinking that I will return to Accra after the two day workshop due to my wife's condition. But that was not to happen. At the workshop, the late Hafiz Ahmad Jebreel Saeed informed us that we should not think that we are

*We launch our new series of 'my story' from around the world as a source of inspiration for others to follow.*

doing Ahmadiyyat a favour and that we should disabuse our mind from that conviction. But it is rather Ahmadiyya which is favoring us. We were told not to give excuses when called to serve the Jama'at. With these admonishing, I did not have any option but to attend the Tarbiyyat program in the North leaving my wife who was to deliver at any time without proper arrangements.

In the North, I was sent to a community where there was no mobile network. If I wanted to make a call I had to travel on a motor bike for close to two hours to a hill in order to make that call. I could not be contacted in case of any emergency from the house. Some of my colleagues requested to be transferred from the area to another place but I did not. Two weeks into the program, we were called back from our stations to partake in a national activity, the re-denomination of the cedi. It was to happen that my wife delivered the day after I got to Accra. Unfortunately, the baby was not in good health and had to be put into an incubator for some time. Before the baby could be discharged, we were called back to the north. Leaving my wife and baby behind was difficult but I had no options but to go. To my surprise the baby was discharged from the hospital even before I could get to Kumasi.

During the three months program, I was able to teach 20 Khuddam to recite the Holy Qur'an, a feat that was unheard of in the Northern Region. Despite all these challenges, the Northern Regional Missionary, Maulvi Faheem Khaddim, adjudged me as the Best Missionary sent for the Tarbiyyat program. As a result of this feat, in 2010, I called to be part of the Ghanaian delegates to the UK Jalsa Salana.

In 2012 I was posted to the Solomon Islands as a Missionary. The presence of Islam on the Islands is not as strong as Ghana, there prayers were said in rooms as there were no mosques. The main Islamic groups on the Islands are the Sunnis and Ahmadiyya.

Being a foreigner, there was not a single day that I went out without some locals approaching to ask questions. I took such opportunities to inform them about the appearance of the Mahdi. Through this I made some converts as well as friends.

Into order to help coordinate the activities of the Jama'at in the Island, I facilitated the building of a Mosque and also sent a native to Ghana for Missionary training at the Jamiatul Mubashireen. Mosque attracted a lot of people to the Mission to enquire more about Islam. This did not go on with the leadership of the Sunni group who were later to frustrate me.

Things were going on smoothly for me until it was time for me to renew my residential permit. When I applied to renew my residential permit, I was told to work on my work permit first. After getting my work

permit, I applied for the residential permit only to be told later that I have overstayed my permit and that my stay in the country was unlawful. I was to pay an amount of 3,060 Solomon Islands Dollars (that is US\$20.00) daily for the days I had overstayed, totaling SBD\$20,454 (US\$3,060.00) and to leave the country within 14 days.

Letters were written to the Australian Jama'at since the Islands are under their administration. The issue was communicated to Huzur, who gave directives. A lawyer was appointed to represent me in court. While the issue was being addressed, the 14 days ultimatum given expired so I was arrested and detained. Being a third world country, there was no facility for detention so I was sent to prison until the case was settled. I was treated like any other criminal in the prison. Upon the advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>ra</sup> a representative was appointed from Australia to see to it that the problem was solved. The representative held meetings with the Minister of Immigration, Minister of Foreign Affairs who all agreed to his release to enable him do his work but Director of Immigration whose Deputy Director was a Sunni refused. The case have to end up in court.

***... we should not think that we are doing Ahmadiyyat a favour ... we should disabuse our mind from that conviction. But rather it is Ahmadiyyat which is favouring us.***

The case lasted for 2 months and two weeks and all this while I was in prison. While there I took advantage of the situation and presented the teachings of Islam to the inmates. At the end of the case I was deported. By the grace of Allah I was gained favour with the inmates of the prison to the extent that when it was about time for me to leave, the prisoners were sad. I therefore organized a meeting to explain issues to them. During the meeting the inmates demanded that I should not leave. One of the prisoners asked me now that I have come to wet their appetite about Islam, without being initiated into it, and being left just like that what were they doing to do.

The prisoners wrote a farewell message for me and a young boy was also to write a letter requesting me to ask Huzur for prayers for him, it is his wish to become an Ahmadi Missionary after being realized from prison. While leaving the country, miraculously, while the Immigration officer was stamping my passport, instead of "deported" he stamp it "departed".

# TREATMENT OF FAMILY, THE TEACHINGS AND PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH(AS)

A speech delivered by Jamil Ibrahim Badu, immediate past Naib Sadr, Northern Sector at the 35th Annual National Ijtema of the Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya Ghana, held at the Nusrat Jahan College of Education, Wa, Upper West Region



*Bismillahi Rahmaanir Raheem. Laqad kaana lakum fii rasuulillaahi uswatun hasanatul leman kaana yarjullaha, walyaumal aakhira wadhakarallaaha katheeraa. (Al-Ahzab, Qur'an 33:22)*

Mr. Chairman, the Upper West Regional Missionary, colleague Aamila members, members of the Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, Ghana, I greet you all with the soothing salutation of Islam, *Assalamu alaikum warahma-tullah ta'ala wabarakatuh*

I am thankful to the Allah Almighty and I am particularly indebted to the members of the the Planning Committee of the 35th Annual National Ijtemaa, under tutelage of the Sadr, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Ghana, for given me the opportunity to address this noble gathering.

The topic for my discourse is ***Treatment of family, the teaching and practical example of the Promised Messiah(as)!***

Mr. Chairman, family in its narrow sense is the basic social unit consisting of parents and their children, considered as a group, whether dwelling together or not. However a family can also be seen in a more brother sense as a group of persons who form a household under one head. Thus, the Ahmadiyya community under the leadership of the successive Khulafa is one family, just as the whole mankind can be considered as one family under omnipotent headship of Allah..

Family treatment and discipline are therefore intertwined in the sense that a disciplined person is in the best position to ensure a good treatment of his family just like a person who can best treat his family can also ensure discipline both for himself

and the members of the family, the result of which will lead to national development.

However, discipline and best treatment of family can never be effectively achieved without recourse to understanding and following the teaching and practical examples of the Promised Messiah(as), since he is the light of the world and Imam of the age and the only way by which seekers of truth can reach their Creator with peace of mind.

Mr. Chairman, the verse I recited from the Holy Qur'an at the beginning of my discourse is taken from Chapter 33 of the Holy Qur'an, verse 22 and the translation is as follows: ***Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model, for him who fears Allah and the last Day and who remembers Allah much***".

The Promised Messiah(as), a dedicated and obedient servant of his Holy master Hazrat Muhammad Mustapha(saw), always kept in mind the teachings of his master to the effect that *"Khairukum khairukum le ahlehee wa anna khairukum le ahlee"* i.e. "the best of you is he who is best in treating his family and I am the best of you in the treatment of my family".

Mr. Chairman, the gentleness and kindness of the Promised Messiah(as) was like a warm beam of sunshine which brightened everything it touched. His treatment of his wife and children, his attitude to the servants of the house, towards the beggars that called for alms, his treatment to the so called have-nots of society and the simple of mind, in short, every aspect of his relationship with others bore the mark of a person strongly aware of divine presence.

He considered his wife Hazrat Sayeda Nusrat Jahan Baigum(ra) as a blessing of Allah and took special care of her. He never complained during his marriage and not even a single domestic dispute occurred the like of warfare.

Female servants who help with household chores used to say "Mirza really complies with his wife" as they had never seen any husband ever doing anything in the like.

Fellow brethren, priding ourselves as Ahmadis and the followers of the Promised Messiah(as) for that matter, let's

be honest with ourselves; how many of us here would take it kindly and continue to do so when his female servants continues to refer to him as fond of always listening to his wife in every circumstance?. For some of us, the minimum demeanour to demystify that wrong perception of sycophancy is to withdraw all assistants to wife immediately, and yet there are others who would use severe and abusive words on the wife just to portray that they are in control of affairs.

In a practical demonstration of his absolute obedience to his master as the best among mankind in the treatment of family, Hazrat Promised Messiah(as) loved his wife so much so that he always talked to her in a polite and loving manner to the extent, that even if there were any blunder committed by his wife in the performance of her household chores, he never said anything.

There was an instance where Hazrat Nusrat Jahan(ra) reported that when she first came from Delhi, she realised that his Holiness Hadzrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad(as) had a taste for dried molasses rice dessert so she enthusiastically arranged for the cooking of the rice. She later added more amounts of the dried molasses and the food tend to gooeey syrup. She continued that she was totally disappointed and her face was close to tears. But when the Promised Messiah(as) saw her face he smiled and said are you sad because the rice did not turn out good for you? No, this rice is very tasty. It is cooked just according to my taste. I like it with extra dry molasses. He then ate it happily.

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***"the best of you is he who is best in treating his family and I am the best of you in the treatment of my family"***

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The truth about the matter is this that for some of us here if we had been confronted with this situation at the time we are seriously hungry, probably the most Godfearing reaction that could possibly have emanated from us would be to reject the food outright, whilst for others offering

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## Treatment of family, the teachings and practical examples ...

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the woman a couple of slaps would suffice for the occasion. Some other men can be so myopic to the extent that divorce can even result from this action of the wife. Meanwhile, the Promised Messiah(as) rather turned this sad, disappointing and potentially tragic moment to a happy one for the wife. What a practical example worthy of being emulated.

Mr. Chairman, my brothers in Islam, it is worthy of noting that the Promised Messiah's(as) demonstration of affection and mildness towards women was not limited to only his wife but to all women in general.

To depict this assertion, the Promised Messiah(as) said "I see a person who fights with his wife as a coward and completely unmanly". Once, mention was made of a person who was very harsh and strict with his wife and when this got to the hearing of the Promised Messiah(as) he was very displeased and he said "our companions should not behave this way".

Commenting on the remarkable forbearance and magnanimity of Promised Messiah(as), Hazrat Maulvi Abdul Karim(ra) related that he on several occasions witnessed the Promised Messiah(as) in the room with doors closed, engaged in writing a book or engrossed in meditation. One of his children would heavily knock the door requesting the father to open the doors. He would open and the child would only enter the room and without doing anything would go back and in a very shortest period, the child would come and knock again heavily asking the father to open but after opening the child only peeps in and goes back. This according to Maulvi Abdul Karim(ra) continued for twenty times in a particular occasion but the Promised Messiah(as) would not say anything to the child or frown his face.

Who among us here today could possibly have tolerated the child for a maximum of three times before given him a dirty knock on the head?

Similar to this, is the attitude of Promised Messiah(as) towards the female servants. Once a woman went to him again and again when the Promised Messiah(as) was busy writing some books and asked for what she wanted one after the other but he (Promised Messiah(as)) never rebuked the woman by saying "O wretched woman

why don't you take all that you wanted once and go instead of disturbing me.

Those house servants cooked for themselves whatever food they liked and they have a free hand as if the house and its belongings therein are their own. Sometimes these house helps forget even to prepare food for the Promised Messiah(as) but, they were never admonished or rebuked.

Depicting his openness to all and sundry, once, after a sunset prayer the Promised Messiah(as) was taken ill. So one of his servants who heard this came running to see him in his sitting room with his feet covered with mud. Someone tried to stop him but the Promised Messiah(as) told them not to stop the servant and he further said the man did not know where not to go with the muddy feet so he was allowed in to see the Promised Messiah(as) with the muddy feet.

My Brothers, you would agree with me that there are some of us here who call themselves Ahmadis and yet when they happen to get worldly position, be it political or otherwise, would not like to avail themselves even the slightest to assist their brethren Ahmadis, to the extent that some even give specific instructions to the effect that whenever a visitor comes and is identified as an Ahmadi he should be turned down, probably simply because he cannot perpetrate corrupt and bribery transaction with the Ahmadi. So the best action to save himself is to avoid his own brethren.

The Promised Messiah(as) was once returning from Aqsa Mosque in Qadian and on his way met a man with confused mind who suffers from delusions. This man called out loudly and roughly saying "stop Ghulam Ahmad(as)". The Promised Messiah stopped and the man said "say Assalamu Alaikum" and the Promised Messiah(as) said it. This man in his delusion sees himself as a king and needed people to settle their account so he told the Promised Messiah(as) to settle his account. Surprisingly the Promised (as) picked a coin from his pocket and gave to him.

The Promised Messiah(as) took care of his own children's upbringing through prayers and his own examples and would never beat a child no matter how troublesome and naughty and unreasonable their demands are.

Once his son, Mian Mahmud, a small boy at the time put a piece of stone in the pocket of the father's waist coat so when he laid down on his side, it poked on to him. Later the Promised Messiah(as) complained to one of the companions about the pains he was experiencing anytime he wears the coat. The servant searched and realised that it was the stone that was causing that. The Promised Messiah(as) remembered that his son put the stone in his pocket and asked him not to remove because he would play with it later. So the Promised Messiah(as) asked them to put the stone back in the coat despite it being the cause of his pains, just to please the child.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the love and devotion of the Companions of the Promised Messiah(as) is a living testimony to the fact when the beauty of a person's truth and goodness truly attracts, it compels the beholder to follow in the same path of goodness. It is this compelling attraction that makes a divinely inspired guide and 'window' through which the soul can glimpse the ultimate beauty, the beauty of truth, the beauty of God. The Promised Messiah and Mahdi(as), treading in the footsteps of his Holy Master, the Holy Prophet(saw) enabled many who followed him to know God. He enabled and continues to enable a person to achieve the true purpose of life.

I end my discourse Mr Chairman by once again repeating an earlier quotation from the Promised Messiah(as) to the effect that "A person who is not compassionate and benevolent in the treatment of his wife and relatives does not belong to my community". By inference, a woman who does not also exhibit these same qualities in the treatment of husband and relatives is not part of his community.

It is therefore incumbent upon us as members of this noble Jamm'at to take advantage of the favours that Allah has bestowed upon us as Ahmadi Muslims to shine for others to see the light illuminating from the Promised Messiah(as).

It is my prayer that Allah guides us to follow the footsteps of the Promised Messiah(as) in the treatment of our family so as to be counted as part of his community in this present life and the hereafter.

*Assalamu Alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.* ■

# TO THE NATION'S YOUTH

A poem by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-din  
Mahmood Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih II

O' ye tender plant of the nation, To You I  
have something to say, Providing my  
message May flash not away.

Advice I would give To the nation's youth,  
that they may not say, I withheld the truth.

When we pass away, The burdens of life,  
You will have to bear, So be not seekers of  
idle rest, But do and dare.

Serve the faith with heart Filled with God's  
sweet grace. And let not a thought of  
compensation Cloud your face.

Let your eyes fill with tears, And your heart  
burn with love. Let your spirit ascend  
Beyond Islam's mere name To the realms  
above.

No bragging in the head, No thunder of  
wrath in the eye, No curse on the lips Which  
would cause thy brother to sigh

The well-wishing of brethren Always keep  
in sight, Neither criticize nor mischief  
make, But cling to the right

Be free from jealousy And contentment  
create Make no gold your beloved, Nor  
Silver your charmed mate.

With full attention continue Offering  
prayers and keeping fast Obeying God's  
commandments Which were written in the  
past. If you have wealth, be charitable In  
giving alms to those who need

Fear not the days of trouble. If the needy you  
would feed You must learn and remember  
That a Muslim shines more bright If he  
makes the pilgrimage To the holy land of  
Light.

Let Zikr be your habit. Remembering God  
in your prayers. When the beloved is kept in  
mind. It is impossible his name not to  
declare

Let not reason be the ruler O'er faith, which  
is salvation; Blind is the reason if it be not  
Guided by the Sun of Revelation.

Cling fondly to all the Truth. Whenever and  
Wherever you find. Follow not the  
imagination, Calling it knowledge of mind.

The believers who love Mohammed. Be not  
an enemy to them. But keep yourself aloof.  
From those who would the Prophet  
condemn.

Live in peace, taking no part with those Who  
trouble create; Cause no anxiety nor  
disturbance For the rulers of the state.

Consider the age of the youth As a favour  
great, That in the days to come You may say

it is too late.

Beauty is good in all cases, But seek it with  
great care; May be that you think to be a  
grain is a snare

Should you become a statesman, A general  
or a physician; If your heart in Islam is not  
steeped, You will not please us with your  
position.

Keep self-respect, for bad it is To lack  
dignity of mind, But also to others be  
respectful; Sincere and kind

Whether in prosperity or poverty In riches  
or need. Never cease for a moment In  
spreading Islam's seed

If you conquer the world, You have gained  
naught. If the wild and terrible self You have  
not subdued and taught

Do not spoil the good done, By reminding of  
an obligation. Lest the thread of communion  
be broken Letting you fall from near the roof  
to the Foundation.

Forget not that delicacy Is the women's  
share. He is no man who body is as rose leaf,  
And cannot hardships bear.

Drop not at the sight Of wine like a fly; Look  
carefully, for at the bottom Of the cup dregs  
may lie.

You must know that the honours from the  
blessed one's school are always  
accompanied with persecution from the  
fool.

Very hard is the task; The goal far away; O  
my faithful ones! Be not indolent, But work  
without delay.

If step you will upon the path Of sincerity  
and loyalty, There will be no difficulty  
which you cannot surpass, Even to the  
royalty.

Let your actions put us not To shame on  
judgement day, Nor trouble for us make; In  
the task of faith, let not Your lessons be half-  
done, For your own sake.

We are continuing our work Somehow or  
other. Be careful lest the Movement In your  
time may suffer.

My prayer for your sake, O dear ones! is  
this: May God keep you under His shade  
Bringing no failure, but bliss.

May you be safe from the darkness Of grief,  
pain and sorrow, And may the evening shade  
Never cast its shadow Over your sunlight of  
tomorrow. AMEN

RESOLUTION  
PASSED AT THE  
35TH ANNUAL  
NATIONAL  
IJTEMA'A  
AT  
WA

*In the name of Allah,  
Most Gracious, Ever Merciful*

We, members of the Majlis  
Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya  
(Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth  
Organisation) Ghana, having  
gathered at Nusrat Jahan Ahmadiyya  
College of Education, Wa, Upper  
West of Ghana, for our 35th Annual  
National Ijtema'a (Rally) under the  
theme: "*Priority to Faith; The Key  
to Ensuring Prosperity*" on this day,  
the 13th September, 2014, hereby  
resolve as follows:

1. To reaffirm ourselves towards the  
implementation of the pledge of the  
Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya and  
in so doing offer every sacrifice for  
the continuation of Khilafat-e-  
Ahmadiyya (Spiritual leadership of  
the Ahmadiyya Muslim  
Community).

2. To accelerate our effort towards  
the learning, understanding and  
strict observance of the teachings of  
the Holy Qur'an, including the  
payment of obligatory contributions  
for the development of Islam  
Ahmadiyya and the Nation.

3. To continue to be loyal and  
obedient to the Khalifa of the time,  
parents and authority.

4. To always speak the truth at all  
times and keep away from  
fornication, adultery, mischief and  
dishonesty.

5. To hold firm the unity of our  
Muslim brotherhood.

6. To give priority to our faith against  
property and worldly pursuits.

7. To abstain from "shirk" right up to  
the day we pass on or die.

8. To give up pride and vanity and  
shall pass all our life in humility,  
cheerfulness, forbearance and  
meekness.

9. To offer the five daily prayers in  
accordance with the command-  
ments of God and the Holy  
Prophet(saw) and remain faithful to  
God in all circumstances of life, in  
sorrow and in happiness, adversity  
and prosperity. *Insha'Allah.*

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