
AMI SEATTLE

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 2007

Advice from our Khalifa

Hassan Khan

hassank@amiseattle.org

This is a compilation of the advices given by our beloved Khalifa-tul-Masih V Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad in the last month in his weekly Friday Sermons. In this day and age when disunity plagues the Muslim world, it is extremely important for us as Ahmadiis to get behind our Khalifa and take heed of his advice. As the Khalifa he receives reports and letters from all over the world and has a finger on the pulse of our community. He is also divinely guided. Therefore we cannot afford to let his commands fall on deaf ears. Below is some of the advice given by Huzoor for us to focus our attention on:



1. Acquire Divine quality of Al-Momin, the bestower of peace, in our lives.
2. Read and make an effort to understand the commentary of the Holy Quran written or inspired by the Promised Messiah.
3. Each Ahmadi should develop their spirituality and not suffice with just having faith; rather putting it all into practice is most essential.
4. We must fulfill all the promises we make.
5. All Ahmadiis should keep the House of God, the Holy Kaaba, in his/her prayers, and pray for Ahmadiis to be able to safely visit this Holy place.
6. We must have strong faith in God and should never feel embarrassed by our beliefs in any company. In fact we should counter others with proofs and arguments.
7. Fear Allah and develop love for Him. Always be mindful of our Prayers and sacrifice in the way of Allah.
8. Always receive our guests with cheerfulness and be hospitable to them.
9. We should pray for peace in Pakistan and the rest of the Muslim world.
10. We should be mindful of Islamic values especially saying 'Assalam-o-Alaikum' to everyone. ❖

MKA National Ijtema 2007

Humad Chaudhry

The National Ijtema was a great experience for me. It was the first one I attended and I am grateful that I went this year. Over 1,000 people attended which was a new record. It felt good to be part of this event and being part of something which hadn't been done before. At first, I didn't really feel like going because I didn't know what to expect.

I arrived there on Friday and listened to the Juma Khutbah. After that, the sports competitions started. Our team was doing pretty well in volleyball. I ended up having a lot of fun at the Ijtema. I met so many new people and learned about their lives. I didn't expect to be treated so kindly by others. I felt respected and felt like I belonged to something special. The message of brotherhood was truly shown. There was no hostility between different Majalis. Everyone was nice and open. They were willing to share and open up to me. The people I met seemed like they genuinely care about doing good for others. I also became aware of converts in the Jamaat. I learned how they felt and how I can make them feel more comfortable. This was also a very important issue because a lot of them don't speak Urdu and most Ahmadis are Pakistani. Therefore, there would be a barrier but I learned that I have to go out of my comfort zone and that's how I would grow as a person.



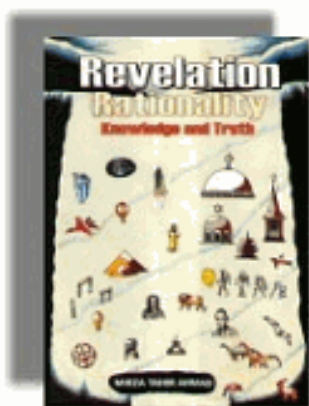
The national Ijtema really had a positive effect on me. It was refreshing spiritually. It made me feel rejuvenated and strong in my faith. I started looking at things differently. Everything I do, I learned to do them with the best of intentions. Going to the Ijtema made me realize how blessed I was belonging to Ahmadiyyat. I learned about my responsibilities as a Khuddam. Something very beneficial for everyone was an open discussion. Everything we were curious about was answered like socializing with girls and homosexuality. We actually touched the sensitive issues which we hadn't done before. These were the things we really needed to hear.

The thing that touched me the most was the letter titled "Tribute to Khuddam" which was about a devout Khadim. It made me think a lot and I learned about the life of that individual. Everyone came together and seemed to agree with the letter. Overall, I had a great experience at the national Ijtema and look forward to going there every year from now on. ❖

Lajna Book Club

Bushra Bajwa

We got off to a rocky start – low attendance, short discussions, and no suitable location. Initially, it was a study circle for Young Lajna where one person presented a topic of their choice, followed by a discussion. We then decided to read Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad's masterpiece, Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth. A book many of us aspired to read but were challenged by its length! We started with reading and discussing one chapter each week, problem: our discussions were not very fruitful - 7-8 people discussing a chapter which had already been so well analyzed by Hadhur. Next suggestion: half a group read one chapter, half a group read another, but still there was not enough discussion. We also struggled with some of the earlier chapters on philosophy, deciding to miss them out and often had to cancel meetings due to one person or another not being able to come. So it was time to make some ground rules if we wanted this to work:



- Meet every other week at a set time and place
- Everybody assigned their own chapter which they will present
- No skipping of chapters
- If somebody cannot make the meeting, the meeting will still go ahead and they will email their presentation prior to the meeting
- One person each week to do a presentation on a subject of their choice (e.g. What is the Dajjal? What happened in Muharram? Do we believe in Karma?).

Sounds hard core? Well, nothing more than what the girls face at university! Plus, there is no harm in pushing ourselves to work hard.

The dedication and motivation shown by everyone has been phenomenal. We are now left with one more meeting to finish our book InshaAllah. It has been great reading this book together and definitely easier with the help of the scientists in our group. Our meetings bring up many questions which we try and resolve with the help of alislam.org and askislam.org. Furthermore, strong friendships have been formed in the group and last month we managed to have our first outing together: this started with brunch at iHOP, bowling and Ben and Jerry's ice cream by Lake Washington. Plenty more of this please!

If you are interested in joining the book club when we start our next book please contact: bushrabajwa@hotmail.com

Nasirat Camp (6/29-7/1)

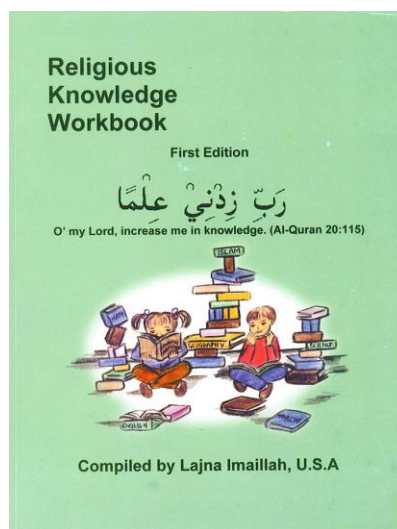
Myra Haq

The Nasirat camp that was hosted by the Seattle Jamaat is definitely one to remember. This event was a great opportunity for the young girls, for many reasons. First and foremost, they learned about their religion. Additionally, they were able to bond with their fellow Nasirat.

Over the course of four days, the girls shared their stories and thoughts in the different workshops. I enjoyed listening to one particular workshop on prayer and strengthening ties with God. The girls sat around in a big circle and passed the microphone around to those who wanted to share their stories. Some of the girls described situations in which they were stressed out or worried, but that praying helped them overcome whatever hardship they were dealing with.

Many of the activities the girls participated in took a lot of planning, and I know they were thoroughly enjoyed by the Nasirat. One such activity was the project of making a calendar. One particular calendar I was admiring had many colorful, hand-drawn pictures and quotes from the Holy Quran. What made the calendar really special was a cute group photograph that had been taken with all the Nasirat, and this had been pasted on the front of the calendar. In addition to these activities, the girls had the chance to go to the park and enjoy the nice weather.

In my opinion though, the most fun came at night. This was the time where the girls would pull their sleeping bags into a circle and play games or talk all night. I remember arriving at the mosque on Saturday morning to see a row of rolled up sleeping bags and pillows (and even a few sleepers!), and could only imagine how much the girls enjoyed themselves. Although sleepy, not one girl was without a smile.



I believe we, as a Jamaat, were blessed to have an opportunity to host an event like the Nasirat camp. A lot of planning and effort went into making it happen, but I know that we all enjoyed planning it as much as the girls from the Nasirat enjoyed taking part in it. InshAllah, the Seattle Jamaat will continue to have opportunities to host events like this in the future.