The Amīr/National President Jamā'at Aḥmadīyya,

Dear Brother,

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) recited the following verse of Surah $\bar{A}l$ -e- $\bar{I}mr\bar{a}n$ in the start of the sermon:

"Never shall you attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love; and whatever you spend, Allah surely knows it well." (3:93)

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) while expounding this verse says that you can never acquire the true piety that leads to salvation unless you spend in the way of Allāh out of your wealth and possessions that are dear to you. You cannot attain true piety unless you spend for the welfare of humankind out of your precious possessions. Hence, Allāh has given such importance to financial sacrifice that he has made it a prerequisite for salvation, provided it is made with the sole intention of winning Allāh's pleasure.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: In this world, people love their wealth more than anything else. However, Allāh says that you shall never attain righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love. This is because sympathy and compassion for humankind require the spending of a large portion of one's possessions. Compassion for our fellow beings and God's creatures is an integral part of faith without which faith cannot be perfected. If a person does not sacrifice, how can he be of service to others? This verse teaches and encourages sacrifice. Spending in the way of Allāh is, thus, the criterion for one's piety and goodness.

The standard and proof of devotion to God in the life of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), was that when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) appealed for contributions, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) brought to him all that he possessed.

In the time of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), the highest example of sacrifice for the publication of literature and the spread of Islam was set by Ḥaḍrat Maulānā Ḥakīm Nooruddīn Sāhib (May Allāh be pleased with him). He wrote to the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), "I am ready to sacrifice everything for your sake. Nothing I have is mine; it is all yours. My beloved leader and mentor! I say with the utmost sincerity that if all my wealth and possessions were to be spent for the service of the faith, I would have attained my ultimate desire."

Many other companions of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) also made tremendous sacrifices according to their ability. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) once said about them, "When I look at their sacrifices, I am amazed." Likewise, in every Khilāfat after the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), Allāh has continued to bless the Jamā'at with members who make great sacrifices and set aside their own priorities. By the grace of Allāh, members of the Jamā'at take part in these sacrifices with great zeal. As a result, they receive not only the rewards of this world but their faith is also strengthened.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited many such instances from around the world. A *Mu'allim* from Liberia writes: I went to the house of a newly converted young *Ahmadī* to collect *Chanda Waqf Jadīd* but his mother declined because she had no money. After a while, the young man came running and gave me 250 Liberian dollars. He said that it was the money he had saved for his school fees and that he did not want his house to be deprived of contributing to the *Chanda*. A few days later, the young man told me that a relative of his had sent him 2500 Liberian dollars for his school fees so that he would not only be able to pay his school fees but meet his other needs as well. He said that Allāh had rewarded his sacrifice tenfold. Thus it is that Allāh causes people's faith to be strengthened.

The National $Am\bar{\imath}r$ of Tanzania writes: A woman was going to the market with 2000 shillings to buy some provisions. On the way, she met the Mu'allim who reminded her of $Chanda\ Waqf\ Jad\bar{\imath}d$. She immediately paid him 1000 shillings. She had hardly gone a few steps when she met a woman who said that she wanted to return the 5000 shillings she had borrowed from her earlier. The $Ahmad\bar{\imath}$ women came back to the Mu'allim and paid another 1000 shillings saying that it was through the blessing of Chanda that she had been paid back the money she was owed.

A missionary from Nigeria writes that an *Ahmadī* friend from Kano State had stopped paying *Chanda* for three years due to unemployment, but he then thought that he should start contributing at least what he could afford. Barely three months had passed after this when he got a job in a company, and this strengthened his faith in the blessings of *Chanda*.

Abdur Rahīm of a small Jamā'at in Indonesia says: I used to pay Chanda Waqf Jadīd regularly every year. However, 2019 and 2020 were difficult years for me. I quit my job to start a new business but the business also collapsed and I lost all my savings. Therefore, I could not find any means to pay the Chanda. Every day I prayed in Tahajjud and also wrote letters to Khalīfatul-Masīh. I then somehow paid the Chanda that I had pledged. A few days later, I was called for a job at the company from which I had resigned seven years earlier. It was by the sheer grace of Allāh that I found permanent employment and a steady income even at the age of 51.

After relating similar faith-affirming incidents experienced by members of the Jamā'at from Senegal, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Congo Kinshasa, and Macedonia, Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable those who have made

these sacrifices to further increase their sacrifices. Those who are affluent but their sacrifices are not up to the mark should understand the Promised Messiah's (Peace be upon him) saying that God is in no need of your services, rather, it is His blessing upon you that He gives you the opportunity to serve. May Allāh enable the affluent members of the Jamā'at also to understand these words of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him).

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) then announced the commencement of the 66th year of *Waqf Jadīd*. Last year, members of the Jamā'at made a total contribution of £1,22,15,000 towards *Chanda Waqf Jadīd*. Despite the adverse economic condition of the world, this is an increase of £928,000 from the previous year. *Alhamdulillah*.

Ḥūzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the positions of various Jamā'ats in terms of collection. UK stood first, followed by Canada, Germany, USA, India, Australia, a Jamā'at in the Middle East, Indonesia, another Jamā'at in the Middle East, and Belgium.

In terms of per capita payment, the USA stood first, followed by Switzerland, Great Britain, Australia, and Canada.

In Africa, the first ten countries in terms of the collection were Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Liberia, Gambia, Uganda, Benin, and Sierra Leone.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The number of people who contributed towards this *Chanda* has reached 15,06,000 with an increase of 61,000 during the last year.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also announced the position of Jamā'ats within the UK, Canada, Germany, USA, Pakistan, India, and Australia. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may bless the lives of property of all the contributors, $\bar{A}m\bar{i}n$.

Jazākumullāh. Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr ISLĀMABAD (UK) Dated: 09 January 2023