

# Al Hilal

## Stories of our Roots: Ahmadiyyat in America



US \$2

A Magazine for Children

2020-2

## QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A Magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

Al-Hilāl (The New Moon) is published by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, under the auspices of the Children's Magazine Committee directed by Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, National Amīr, Jama'at Ahmadiyya, USA. The publication of this magazine was launched by the late *Hazrat* Sahibzadah M.M. Ahmad (1913 – 2002).

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Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

I am pleased to announce this special Centenary Issue of Al-Hilal, **Stories of our Roots**, to commemorate 100 years of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community’s presence in America. Children have worked hard to delve into the past and learn about the struggles and achievements of their forefathers. It has given them an invaluable opportunity to enrich their lives. Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) has said, “If you study history... if you possess even the tiniest bit of curiosity [about it], then your life cannot go to waste.” (Nations that Progress Keep their Forefather’s History in Mind, June 14, 1951).

Please enter into the past with us and learn about the courageous people who laid the foundations for Ahmadyyat in America so long ago.

Was-Salām

Saliha Malik - Chief Editor, Al-Hilāl

#### **Editor’s Note:**

The notation (sa) is an abbreviation of the prayer *sallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam* (peace and blessings of God be upon him), which we say after the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). Though the prayer has not been written in full it should nevertheless be understood as being repeated in full in each case.

Similarly the notation (as) is an abbreviation of the prayer *‘alahis-salam* (peace be upon him) and is used at the mention of Promised Messiah (as) and all other prophets of God.

The notation (ra) is an abbreviation of the prayer *radi-Allahu ‘anhu/’anha/’anhum* (may Allah be pleased with him/her/them) and is used for the companions of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as)

The notation (aba) is an abbreviation of the prayer *ayyadhullahu ta’ala bi-nasrihil-‘aziz* (may Allah be his helper) and is used at the mention of the current Khalifa (aba).

## Holy Qur'an

رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ  
عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ  
وَ ادْخُلْنِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿٢٠﴾

‘My Lord, grant me *the will and power* to be grateful for Thy favor which Thou hast bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and to do *such* good works as would please Thee, and admit me, by Thy mercy, among Thy righteous servants.’  
(Holy Qur’an Ch. 27:V. 20)

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ  
اللَّهَ لَكَبِيرُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٧٠﴾

‘And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways. And verily Allah is with those who do good.’  
(Holy Qur’an Ch. 29:V. 70)

# Hadith

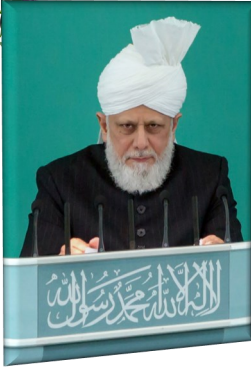
Anas relates that the Holy Prophet (sa) said: Allah says, when a servant of Mine advances towards Me a foot, I advance towards him a yard, and when he advances towards Me a yard, I advance towards him the length of his arms spread out. When he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.

(Bokhari)



## *Excerpt from Huzoor's (aba) Friday Sermon*

### **The Philadelphia Mosque Inauguration [Bait-ul-Aafiyat] October 19, 2018**



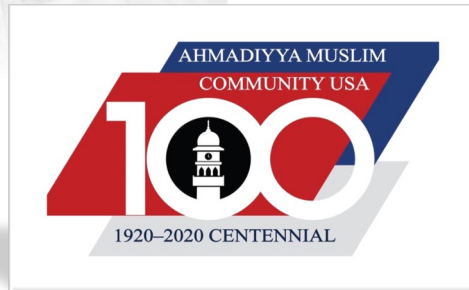
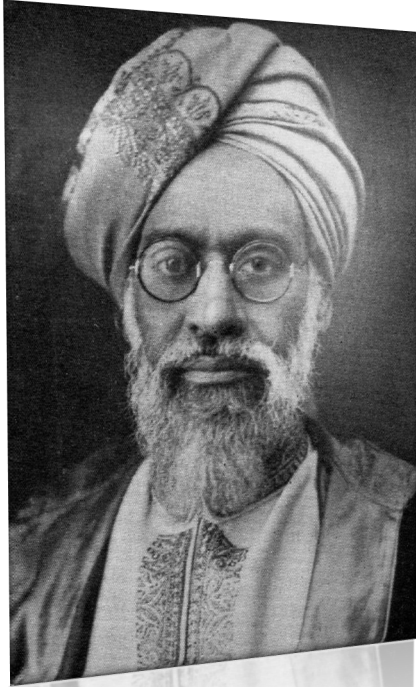
The Promised Messiah (as) has said, ‘You should construct a mosque wherever you wish to spread the true teaching and message of Islam. The mosque should be constructed with full sincerity and not for pretention, it should merely be done for the sake of Allah.’ Thus, a huge responsibility has been placed on the shoulders of the residents here

and that is to make this mosque a means of spreading the true message of Islam and inform people about the true, beautiful and peaceful teachings of Islam through this mosque.

Our history tells us that when Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) came to the United States as a missionary in 1920, he arrived at the harbor here in Philadelphia. However, he was refused entry. He was imprisoned in a building alongside other prisoners. As a result of his preaching efforts, within two months fifteen of the prisoners accepted Islam. Alongside his preaching efforts, his practical example, his piety and his prayers were also key. In one of his reports Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) writes, “In the few days this humble one spent in America, despite all the difficulties and hurdles from the prejudiced Christians, much success was attained. All praise belongs to Allah for this.” He then writes, “At this moment in time, from my preaching endeavors, 29 men and women have entered into this true religion, whose names will be presented along with their new Islamic names.”

Now God Almighty has enabled us to construct a beautiful mosque here in this city, therefore, now the community alongside the local missionary, must devise such plans for preaching in order for the beautiful teachings of Islam to spread in every direction, and for this area to become such an abode of peace and beauty that people strive to come and live here.

# Al-Hilal Centenary Issue



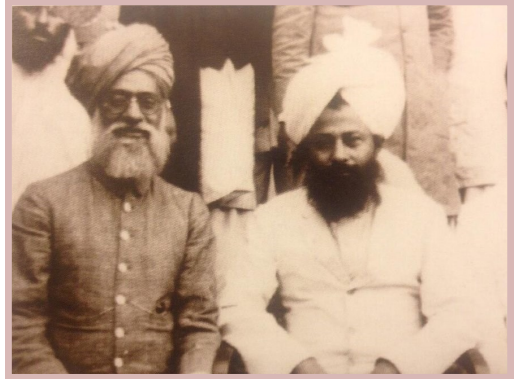
www.al-hilal.com



*Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra)*

**Aysha Mubasher, Age 12, Virginia Central**

Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was a companion of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) and the first Muslim Missionary in America. He converted over seven hundred Americans to Islam directly, and over a thousand indirectly. His purpose in Islam was to convert Americans to Islam and remove general misconceptions about Islam and Ahmadiyyat. Something that separated Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) from his contemporaries was the belief in racial integration between all racial and ethnic groups.



**Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) with  
Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra)**

**From 'The Ahmadiyya Mission to Blacks in the United States in the 1920s' - Richard B Turner (Boston University)**

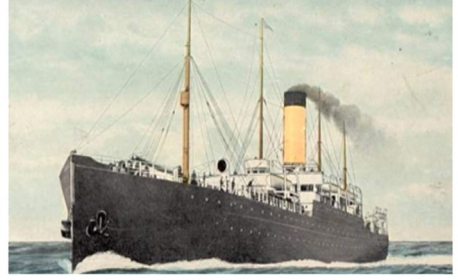
***"You have done splendid work in America in enlightening us Americans to the lofty principles of Islam and the new interpretation of it through the Ahmadiyya Movement." (Samual Robert Shapiro of Chicago, 1923)***

***"Mohammedanism is the solution of America's race problem, says Dr. Sadiq, now in Paris on his way back to Bombay after converting seven hundred Chicagoans to the Moslem faith. Mixed congregations of white and colored converts mingle without prejudice at the mosque, 4448 Wabash Avenue, Chicago IL."***

# Celebration of 100 Years in America

Aariz Ahmed, Age 9, Virginia South

Hazrat Mufti Mohammad Sadiq (ra) was the first missionary to come to America. He travelled from Liverpool, England to America. His ship's name was the SS HAVERFORD. When he was traveling, there was a rough storm with waves and he said, “How dare your waters be so reckless. Do you not know that a disciple of the Promised Messiah (as) is on board with a message to the American



people? Calm down and away with your dangers.” By the Grace of Allah, the fury of the waters calmed down. This shows us that Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) really cared about going to America and spreading the message of Ahmadiyyat. I bet you have heard of this message from Allah to the Promised Messiah (as), “I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth.” Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq’s (ra) visit to America fulfilled this prophecy too.

I am from Virginia South Jama‘at and at our Masroor Mosque, we had an exhibition on our Centennial Celebrations day. I made three models:

- 1) Masroor Mosque using Lego blocks,
- 2) The SS Haverford, which Mufti Sahib<sup>(ra)</sup> traveled to the United States on,
- 3) Two Atfal made up of foam holding a globe showing the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Promised Messiah (as), “I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth,” as well as some charts.



Many people noticed my hard work by the Grace of Allah! Everybody was in awe. It was a great exhibition! This past month, I have been a homeschool student and our whole family has been focusing and researching on the topic

of "Ahmadiyyat in America in the last 100 years" and we all made these models and charts. I was not the only one to bring models and charts; many other Atfal and Nasirat also participated! It was the best exhibition experience ever.





# AHMADI MUSLIM in AMERICA

**Sherish Tahseen, Age 14, Willingboro**

Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was born in Bhera, India in 1872. At the age of 18, he went to Qadian, India to meet the Promised Messiah (as) and went on to perform Bai'at at his hands. In 1901, he started teaching English in Qadian and later became the editor for the newspaper Al-Badr. From 1905-1908, he was the personal secretary of the Promised Messiah (as). In 1917, he travelled to the UK to spread the teachings of true Islam. In 1920, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) became the first Ahmadi Muslim to travel to America.



After landing in Philadelphia, he was suspected of practicing polygamy, which is against the laws of the United States. He explained that Islam allows polygamy, however does not require it, and that Muslims must follow the law of the land first. However, even after this explanation, he was put in a detention facility, where he spent the next two months. When the workers at the facility saw that he had been able to convince so many people in the facility to convert to Ahmadiyyat, they released him, fearing the conversion of more. Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) travelled to New York. From there, he went to Chicago, where he established the very first US Ahmadiyya mosque. He spread his message through his writings and lectures. He had many characteristics, which set



him apart from the rest of the population. He earned an honorary doctorate from Lincoln-Jefferson University. He converted 1,000 people in the short three and a half years he stayed in the US. In 1923, he returned to India. He continued to serve the community and traveled to many other places to spread the message of Islam. He passed away in 1957, having served on three different continents.



## Mufti Muhammad Sadiq

THE BEGINNING OF  
ISLAM IN AMERICA

**Shafia Mallik, Age 8, Maryland**

Mufti Muhammed Sadiq (ra) was a devoted Ahmadi sent to spread Ahmadiyyat to North America. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) managed to explain Islam to a few people on route before being put in detention upon his arrival. Even in detention, he continued to preach about Islam. The authorities did not want him to spread Islam in detention and released him. He was still determined to spread Ahmadiyyat. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was a companion of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) and the first Muslim missionary in America.

He converted over 700 Americans to Islam directly and over 1,000 indirectly. His purpose, as a representative of the



**Muslims for Peace**

Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, was to introduce Islam to Americans. I think we need to be more determined like Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra), who

converted people even in detention. If he did it in detention, why can't we do it even when we are free?

# The First Missionary to America

**Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra)**

Amatul-Noor Ayla Khan, Age 9, Virginia Central  
With assistance from Robina Khan (mother)

Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was born on January 11, 1872 in Bhera, India. He was a companion of the Promised Messiah (as). Mufti Sahib was the first missionary who came to the United States on Feb 15, 1920 under the direction of Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (ra). In April 1920, Hazrat Mufti

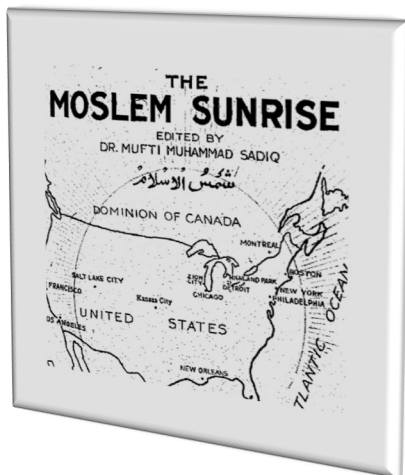


Muhammad Sadiq (ra)

was released from detention and permitted entry into the United States.

He started the longest running Islamic Magazine in the United States, *The Muslim Sunrise*. The first issue was released on July 21, 1921. The cover of each issue displayed a sunrise over the North American continent. Its purpose was to teach Islam and refute the misrepresentations of Islam that appeared in the American press.

Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was well suited for his role as preacher, writer and public speaker for the Ahmadiyya Movement in the United States. He had served as a missionary in England for a number of years, and was a very learned man. He was a graduate of the University of London, a philologist of international repute and an expert in Arabic and Hebrew. He



spoke seven languages and held six honorary doctorate degrees. He converted over seven hundred people to Islam from all racial, ethnic and religious groups. His missionary work was done through preaching and writing.

In September 1923, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) left the United States for India. He spent his entire life in serving the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He died in Rabwah, Punjab, Pakistan on January 13, 1957. He is buried in *Bahishti Maqbarah* [heavenly graveyard]. May Allah bless his soul and give him a high rank in Heaven, *Ameen*.

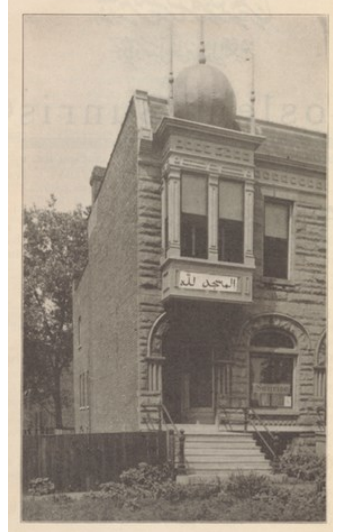
# Al Sadiq Mosque

**Ruhaab Fatima, Age 11, LA East**

Al-Sadiq is known as the first Ahmadi mosque in the United States. It is located on South Wabash Ave, Chicago, Illinois. The Al-Sadiq Mosque was constructed in 1922 in a neighborhood known as Bronzeville in the City of Chicago. It was first established by Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra).

Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) instituted the National Headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Movement and also the Al-Sadiq Mosque.

This converted house was used to serve Muslims for prayer and as a mission house. The oldest Islamic magazine, “The Muslim Sunrise,” was also started from the same place. The Al-Sadiq Mosque was very successful in removing misconceptions concerning Islam and spreading speeches to attract converts. The Al-Sadiq Mosque will always stand in its place for centuries to come, *In Sha Allah*.



# Stories Of Our Roots

Iza Anwar, Age 14, Virginia Central

Do you ever wonder how Ahmadiyyat in America started? In America, the Muslim Sunrise formed in July 1921 by Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) as the first missionary. Then in 1933,



1948—The First Jalsa Salana  
Dayton, Ohio

missionary Sufi Muti-ur-Rahman Bengali promoted Islam in a wide range of American newspapers. He reported that during the years 1930-1947, there were 115 lectures delivered at various clubs, churches, and societies with a high number of audiences that ranged between 500 to 3000 people. Then on May 25, 1934, The Cedar Rapids Gazette

published a description of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as). In 1948, Ahmadiyyat took a very important step by establishing the first Jalsa Salana in the United States. This took place in Dayton, Ohio, in September 1948. By the 1950s, Jim Crow Laws were affecting many African Americans.

Ahmad Saeed relates the story of when he first came into the Ahmadiyya Movement in 1953. He says, “Traveling to different cities would be challenging and dangerous.” During these times of segregation, the Ahmadiyya





Movement continued to preach equality, as directed by the Holy Prophet of Islam (saw). Then in 1982, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh) had the idea to build new mosques and Islamic centers in five cities: Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington D.C. Then, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh) established MTA in 1994. Now, the message of Islam is accessible to anyone interested in the teachings of Islam worldwide.

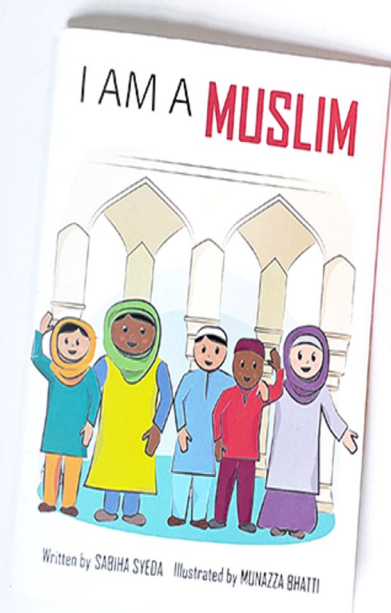


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# The First Missionary to America

## Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra)

Zara Laiq, Age 11, Virginia Central

For Ahmadis living in United States, the year 2020 is a very special year because it marks the 100 years of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States. These 100 years are a testimony to the fulfillment of the revelation received by the Promised Messiah (as) that, **“I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth.”** The history of Ahmadiyyat in the United States dates back to the time of the Promised Messiah (as) when a person with the name of Alexander Russell Webb, who lived in United States, expressed interest in the message of Islam, Ahmadiyyat. It was during the Khilafat of Hazrat Khalifat-ul - Masih II (ra) that the first missionary, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra), came to the United States.



Alexander Russel Webb

Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq Sahib (ra) was born in Bhera, India, in the year 1872. At the young age of 18 years, he had the honor of performing Bai‘at at the hands of the Promised Messiah (as). After completing his education, he became an English teacher in a school in Qadian, India. He had the honor of being the editor of the newspaper Al-Badr and serving as the personal secretary of Promised Messiah (as) for three years.

It was in the year 1920 when Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra), upon the directive of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih (ra), arrived in Philadelphia. He had to face many difficulties while propagating

the message of Ahmadiyya Islam, but he remained steadfast. It is so inspiring how he was all alone when he came to a completely new world, had no resources and no support system. He fully placed his trust in Allah and Allah enabled him to accomplish his mission.

By the help and mercy of Allah, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra)



PHILADELPHIA  
in a short period of his three and a half years stay in this country was able to convert many people to Islam. Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) died in 1957 in Rabwah, Pakistan. May Allah immensely bless his soul for the services he rendered for the sake of Ahmadiyya Islam, *Amīn*.

**We Want to Hear  
from You!!!**

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication.

Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original.

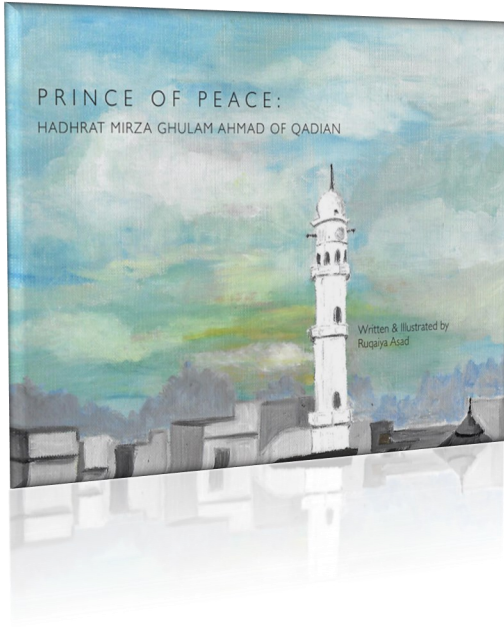
If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

**E-mail Submissions to: [al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us)**

## New Children's Book

# The Prince of Peace



The life of the Promised Messiah (as) written for children ages 7 to 14. Original artwork by the author based on authentic photos. Told in a simple style capturing the history and teachings of Ahmadiyya Islam for young readers. An engaging overview that will resonate with parents and children alike.



On Sale Now at [amibookstore.us](http://amibookstore.us)



# The Story of an Early Convert to Ahmadiyyat Buried in Los Angeles

Rehan Mahmood Khan, Age 14, L.A. East



**Charles Sievwright**

Did you know that there is a companion of the Promised Messiah (as) buried here in Los Angeles near my home? Charles Sievwright was an Australian man who converted to Islam. He grew up to be the accredited Representative of The British and Indian Empire League of Australia. This led him to take a trip to Madras, India for a conference. However, the significance of this trip was when he stopped at a small village called Qadian, where he was introduced to Ahmadiyyat. He met the Promised Messiah (as) who taught him about Islam and shared with him many proofs of the fulfillment of prophecies.

This convinced him that Ahmadiyyat is the true religion. Sievwright explained that he was the first white man to ever visit Qadian as a guest. The Promised Messiah (as) gave Charles the name Abdul Haqq or “Slave of the Truth.” After his visit, he wrote to the Review of Religions and declared his faith as an Ahmadi Muslim in 1903. He would also later announce his devotion to Ahmadiyyat in The Muslim Sunrise in 1923. Haqq moved to California in 1906 with his wife Rosalie. After he had two daughters Caroll and Iris, the family moved to Los Angeles. Eventually he passed away and is currently buried in Glendale, California. Charles Sievwright was the first known Ahmadi Muslim in the Southern California area.



# 100 YEARS OF AHMADIYYAT IN THE UNITED STATES

**Yusuf Zainudin Ahmad, Age 7, Saint Louis**

With help from Summer Ahmad (mother)

Ahmadiyyat started in a small town called Qadian  
In those days there weren't many resources to rely on  
Allah was sufficient for the Promised Messiah,  
Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), who came  
To deliver God's teachings, and he gave Islam such a  
beautiful name.

It was 1889 when he made his Heavenly pronouncement  
Everyone knew this was no ordinary announcement.

As the community grew beyond Qadian's borders  
A missionary was also sent to America on  
Huzoor's (ra) orders.

In 1920 Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, came to the United States

With God's Will he began the mission to create

A community of converts who began to love  
The teachings which came from the Almighty above.

Through hardship, patience, prayers and dedication  
Their message reached notable people across the nation.

Clergymen such as once Protestant A. George Baker  
Were amongst the first Americans to accept the  
message of our Maker.

Ibrahim Khalil was of Native American heritage  
He converted to Ahmadiyyat and joined His Maker's  
voyage

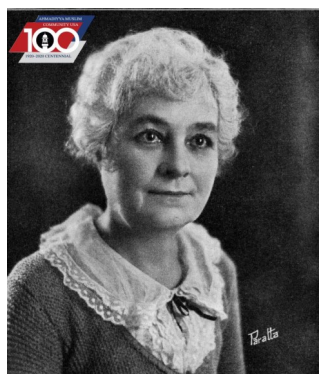
Prominent early Americans, Muhammad Alexander  
Russell Webb and Nathaniel Johnson accepted the message  
They preached the True Islam to Americans and made it a

lasting vestige  
 From then till today, Ahmadis look to help the poor  
 and weak and raise their station  
 They readily volunteer and organize blood and food  
 drives across the nation  
 Ahmadis are first responders in hurricanes, floods  
 and any disaster  
 They do it all only to please their All-Aware Master  
 I am so lucky to be an Ahmadi Muslim in the USA  
 In this beautiful country where my family and I live,  
 work, learn and pray.

## An Early Convert to Ahmadiyyat

**Dania Mansoor, Age 8, LA East**

The earliest contact between the American people and Ahmadi Muslims in India was during the era of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah (as). Sister Ayesha



Augusta Atkinson of Hermosa Beach, California was one of the early Muslim converts on the West Coast. She accepted Islam between 1928 to 1931. She was in direct communication with the third missionary of Islam, Sufi Mutiur-Rahman Bengali, who mentioned her in the first issue of



the 1931 Muslim Sunrise including her picture. May Allah bless her, who held the flag of Islam high during the early days, when ignorance was all around and there was no help but from on High.

# Celebrating 100 Years in America

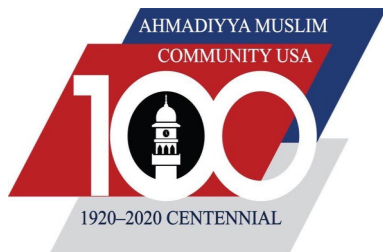
**Anoosh Rizwan, Age 11, Virginia Central**

I feel very honored to write on “CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN AMERICA.” In the Qur’an, Allah says, “You are the best people, raised for the good of mankind; you enjoy what is good and forbid evil and believe in Allah” (Ch.3:V.111). The

United States of America is one of those countries, which was blessed with the message of true Islam through the Promised Messiah (as) himself. The Promised Messiah (as) said, “Our task today is to herald the news in all directions; he who has a noble soul will eventually come.”

The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam began its regular mission in the United States in 1920 under the direction of Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (ra). Imagine the day exactly 100 years ago when a companion of Hazrat Masih Mau'ud (as), Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra), came to Philadelphia with the message of Promised Messiah (as) to spread the message of Ahmadiyyat. In October 1920, within a few months of his arrival, Mufti Sadiq (ra) moved to Chicago. In the summer of 1921, Mufti Sadiq founded the first Islamic magazine in the United States called *The Moslem Sunrise*. Decades later, the monthly *Ahmadiyya Gazette*, *Al Noor* and *Ayesha Magazine* were started.

The Promised Messiah (as) said, “I have been sent to sow a seed and I have sown it. It will grow and bear flowers and fruit in due season and there is none who can uproot it.” In 1950, the American Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam shifted the





headquarters to Washington, DC. After that, in October 1994 Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (rh) inaugurated Bait-ur-Rahman mosque, which now serves as the national headquarters. In the United States, Ahmadi Muslims are providing all Americans an easy way to ask questions about Islam at regular events called Coffee, Cake and True Islam. Humanity First was founded in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving humanity. We are doing many other social media campaigns to tell everyone that Islam is a peaceful religion and that our motto is



*“Love for All Hatred for None!”*



**Imran Mahmood Khan, Age 8, Los Angeles**

In 1920, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) took a voyage to America from England under the instruction of the second Khalifa, Hazrat Musleh Mau’ud (ra). Mufti Sadiq (ra) landed in Philadelphia and this is how Ahmadiyyat started one hundred years ago in the United States of America.





## OUR FIRST MISSIONARY, MUFTI MUHAMMAD SADIQ (RA)



**Asad Shahzad, Age 12, Hartford**

In 1920, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was given instructions to spread the word of Islam to the US. When he came to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania he was immediately detained on suspicion that he was here to preach polygamy. He was detained for almost two months before being released after successfully explaining that in Islam polygamy is allowed, but not required. He also explained Islam's teaching that a Muslim is supposed to obey and follow the laws of the land. He was an excellent example of Prophet Muhammad (sa).

*“O ye who believe! obey Allah, and obey His Messenger and those who are in authority over you.”*  
(Holy Qur'an Ch.4: V.60).

While detained, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) converted about twenty people to the true Islam. Later in 1922, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) established the Al-Sadiq Mosque located in Chicago, which was the first mosque in United States. It is the longest standing mosque on this site in the US. In 1921, he published ***The Moslem Sunrise***, the longest running Islamic magazine in the US. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) ended his mission in 1923 and moved back to India. He passed away in 1957.



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# Our First Missionary

## MUFTI MUHAMMAD SADIQ (RA)

Labiba Mahmud, Age 12, LA East

On February 15, 1920, Hazrat Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) arrived in Philadelphia. He was sent to spread the true Islam, that is, Ahmadiyyat in America. He was also the first Muslim missionary in America. I wondered why he was the one chosen to spread the message. I came to know that he was immensely knowledgeable, had incredible management and speaking skills, and was a true believer and follower of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) and followed in his footsteps. This is why Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) sent him to spread the message of Islam. He was so determined to do what Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) had told him, he accepted the assignment without a second thought.



On his way to America, Hazrat Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) informed fellow travelers about the teachings of Ahmadiyyat and true Islam. He was so passionate about his task, that he started preaching before he reached his destination. When he arrived in Philadelphia he was detained. Even while he was in the detention house, he presented arguments of Ahmadiyya Islam, which many people accepted. Under Hazrat Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra), the first American mosque was established in Chicago in 1922. This is the reason why 2020 is such an important year for American Ahmadi Muslims and we all have an extremely brave person to thank.

# A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART

Sulaiman Qazi, Age 14, Chicago

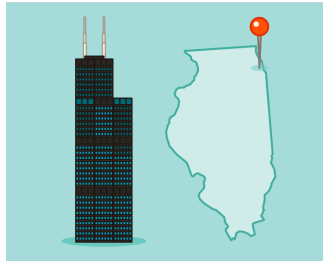


Although this Centennial is an important time for all of us Ahmadi Muslims, it holds a special place in the hearts of my family. Over the past hundred years, Ahmadi Muslims have come to America to seek refuge from the persecution we were facing for our faith. We created our new homes in America, but we found ourselves in need of a place of worship to give thanks to Allah. Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was the first among us to come to America. He sent a request to the Ahmadiyya Jama'at for the necessary funds to build the mosque. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was able to collect enough money to build the first mosque in my hometown of Chicago. You all must know this story as it is the reason we celebrate the Centennial in the first place. However, I am here to tell you how my family played its part in this incredible and momentous occasion.

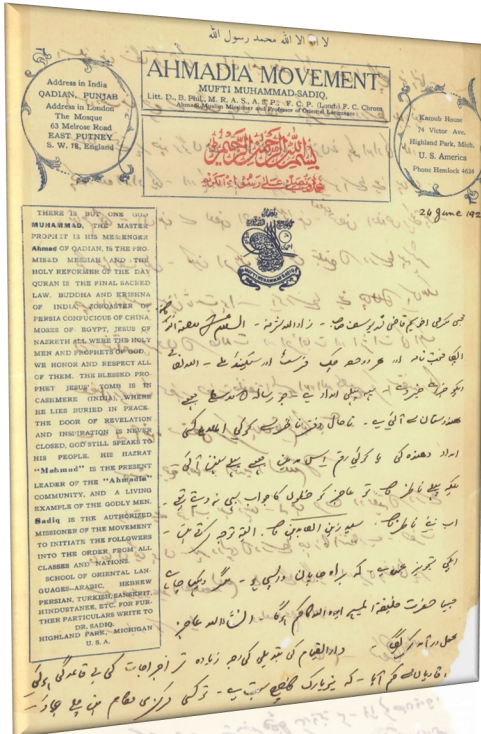
When the request for funds to build the first mosque in America was sent out, the first person to donate was my great grandfather, Muhammad Yusuf Ahmad Qazi. As one of the Promised Messiah's (as) first companions, he chose Ahmadiyyat against the wishes of his family and became a loyal member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He was a very modest and humble man and even when donating the money for the mosque he did not brag or boast about his donation. In fact, the rest of my family did not even find out that he had donated at all until recently. A few years ago, we found a letter written by Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) to my grandfather, thanking him for his donation. I have attached a copy of that letter here. We couldn't believe it because it



shows just how Allah works! My grandfather did not know anything about Chicago, and yet somehow, his son and then his grandchildren and extended family ended up settling in Chicago. It is entirely possible that his donation set the course for the rest of us to live in Chicago. Isn't that amazing?



His one simple action gave our family many blessings and helped us get to where we are today. It was through his actions and the will of Allah that my family has made it to America and, coincidentally, Chicago. I am honored to be related to him and this story will always have a special place in my heart.



The photo of the letter that Mufti Sadiq (ra) wrote to Qazi Muhammad Yusuf says: “My brother, respected Qazi Muhammad Yusuf, *As-Salamo ‘Alaikum!* I received your letter and 2 checks. May Allah reward you. This is the first help that I have received... So far, I have not any news or help from the main office... your suggestion is great that I should come back through Japan but I must wait for the order of Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra), *In Sha Allah.*”

**Letter from Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) to Qazi Muhammad Yusuf (June 26th, 1921)**

## The First Missionary To America: Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra)

**Shafia Jawaid, Age 14, North Jersey**

When Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) first entered America, the authorities asked him why he had come to America. He replied he came to spread the word of Ahmadiyya Islam. He was detained in Philadelphia because they were suspicious of him and the fact that Muslims allow polygamy. When Khalifat -ul-Masih II (ra) found out about Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) being detained, he responded by saying, since America had rejected his missionary, he would send missionaries to neighboring countries to spread Islam to America.

In 2003, Jami'a Ahmadiyya Canada was inaugurated. Now every year we receive new missionaries from Canada, fulfilling the statement of Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) over and over again. One of them is my uncle who graduated two years ago and serves Jama'at Ahmadiyya in America.

# HAZRAT MUFTI MUHAMMAD SADIQ (RA)

## Hassan Ahmad Khan, Age 7, North Jersey

Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was born on January 11, 1872 Behra, India. He was a companion of the Promised Messiah (as). He was the first Missionary in America. He converted over one thousand people in three and a half years. He spread the message of Islam in



three continents: Asia, Europe and North America. He established the first Ahmadiyya mosque in the US. He had deep knowledge of English, Arabic and Hebrew and this helped spread the message even more. He died on January 13, 1957 in Rabwah,

## First Ahmadiyya Mosque

## Malaika Khan, Age 10, North Jersey

Al-Sadiq Mosque was the first mosque in the United States. It is the oldest Ahmadiyya mosque in the country, located in the first headquarters of the Jama'at in Chicago.

This mosque was funded with the money predominantly donated by African American Ahmadis. During Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq's (ra) stay in Chicago, many Americans converted in this mosque. May Allah enable us to spread the message of true Islam all over the world, *Amin*.



# How the Seed of Ahmadiyyat was Sown in America

Noorulain Naeem, Age 10, Virginia South

The Promised Messiah (as) came to revive the true Islam because people had forgotten the teaching of Holy Prophet (sa). It was God's promise to the Promised Messiah (as) that, **“I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth,”** that would be fulfilled no matter what.

Ahmadiyyat first came to the United States in Philadelphia during the time of the Second Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (ra). In 1920, he sent one of the companions of the Promised Messiah (as), Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) to convey the



message of Islam to the United States. He came by ship and as soon as he landed in Philadelphia, he was put into detention because of his beliefs. He stayed in there for about seven weeks, but even in prison he started spreading the word of Islam and as a result he gained about twenty converts.

His awe-inspiring personality would impress people very quickly. He could speak good English and was passionate about spreading the message of Islam. Not only did he spread the message with his words, but also with his actions and appearance. He used to walk on the streets with the turban on his head, which would make people say that Jesus (as) was walking on the street. Upon hearing this, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) would say, **I'm not Jesus (as), but I have a message for you about the Second Advent of Jesus (as).**

The fruit of Ahmadiyyat that we are eating now is the seed that was sown by Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra), *Al-Hamdu Lillah*. May Allah bless his soul and his offspring. May Allah also enable us to spread the message of Islam sincerely like Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra), *Amīn*.



# THE FIRST MISSIONARY TO AMERICA - MUFTI MUHAMMAD SADIQ (RA)

**Samroz Ayaz, Age 9, Milwaukee**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States began in February 1920 when Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) landed in Philadelphia. He was the first Ahmadi Muslim missionary sent to the United States under the direction of Khalifat -ul-Masih II (ra). He was born in the town of Bhera, India, in 1872. In 1890, he went to Qadian, India, to meet the Promised Messiah (as) and was convinced of the truth of his claim. He pledged allegiance at the hands of the Promised Messiah (as).

When he landed in Philadelphia, he was immediately detained on suspicion that he would preach polygamy, which was against the laws of the United States. However, he was able to successfully explain that while Islam allows polygamy, it by no means requires it and a Muslim must always, first and foremost, obey the laws of the land in which he lives.

In 1921, Mufti Sadiq (ra) established Chicago as the center of his preaching. After the successful completion of his mission, he left America for Qadian on September 18, 1923.

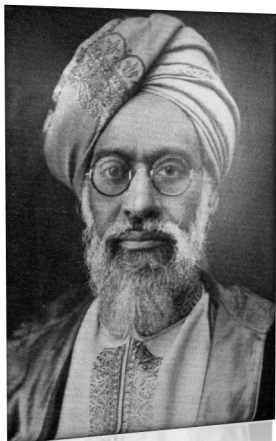
He passed away on January 13, 1957. Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) led the funeral prayer of this devotee of the Promised Messiah (as). He was buried in *Bahishti Maqbara* [Heavenly Graveyard] in Rabwah, Pakistan.



# A TRUE LOVER OF ALLAH

Syeda Javeria Nasir, Age 12, Philadelphia

As-Salamo 'Alaikum! I'm writing this essay to share with kids of my age about Mufti Mohammad Sadiq (ra) – a true lover of Allah. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was a companion of the Promised Messiah (as). For every trouble he faced he always had the same solution to solve it. He was sent on a mission by the second Khalifa Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (ra) first to England and then later on to America to spread the message of true Islam. He had interesting incidents in his



life on how Allah helped him discreetly. I will be sharing some of those incidents.

Mufti Sadiq (ra) was sent to England from Qadian in 1917, era of World War 1. Germany was a major part of it. His ship had to travel German waters. There was so much bombing happening at sea. The captain warned everyone on the ship that if the ship goes down passengers can take a lifeboat and then after that they are on their own. With this news Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) was concerned for his mission.

**He turned towards Allah and prayed** for

His protection so that he may bring the true Islam to the people of England. That same night he received a revelation from Allah that told him, **Don't worry. You will be safe. Your ship will go through.** Mufti Sahib immediately assured the captain of this good news. The same day his ship sailed past all the bombing. The wreckage of other ships was all around them but by the mercy of

Allah his ship remained safe.

Unfortunately Mufti Sadiq (ra) did not travel well and was feeling very sea sick. Luckily his ship stopped unexpectedly in France. He thought he would continue his remaining journey from France by train. He was obliged to purchase the train ticket from the ship before disembarking, but to his great disappointment he found out he was £2 short of the fare. So once again **he turned towards Allah and prayed** for some ease in his journey. Allah told him that **help is on the way**. A while later he saw a rowboat approaching his ship. There were two people on it and they turned out to be Ahmadis! They got news that Mufti Sahib's ship had stopped in France so they decided to pay him a visit. It was a wonderful surprise. On departing, the guests apologized that they wanted to bring him a gift or sweets but time didn't permit so instead they presented him with some cash as a gift. Guess what? The cash was exactly £2! He bought his train ticket and continued his journey from France. Hence by the grace of Allah, he was able to avoid the sea and its terrible sickness.

On his mission to spread Islam in US, Mufti Mohammad Sadiq (ra) reached Philadelphia on February 15, 1920. On entering the US, as a protocol he had to go through several medical examinations. Mufti Sadiq (ra) knew he had eye problems that could prove to be a hurdle in his entry so yet again **he turned towards Allah and prayed**. The next day as they were getting tested, the examination doctor got so intrigued on knowing that Mufti Sahib was from India that in amidst of his fascinating tales, the doctor completely neglected to check his eyes!

However, upon arrival, Mufti Sadiq (ra) was detained. The American authorities suspected he will preach polygamy, having more than one wife, which is strictly against the US laws. They wanted to deport him but Mufti Sahib requested that his case be heard. **He turned towards Allah and prayed** that they listen to him. He got his chance and by his profound knowledge and Allah's mercy, Mufti Sadiq (ra) was able to defend the teachings of Islam. He explained that in Islam polygamy is allowed but not required, and a Muslim must obey and follow the

laws of the land. The authorities accepted and let him walk free with the condition that he will not promote polygamy in the US. He duly adhered to it.



There is another interesting aspect to the above incident. Mufti Sahib arrived in the US in February. Since it is extremely cold in February, the harsh winter would have presented a challenge. Once again Allah helped him. How? He was detained!

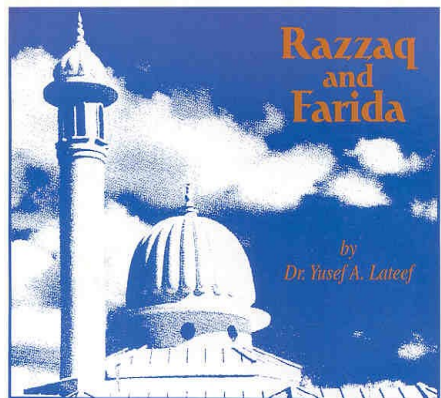
Detention centers aren't really the best accommodations but it was at least an immediate shelter from the cold. During his stay in prison, he utilized his time very productively and converted about 20 non-Muslims into the fold of Ahmadiyyat. People were very attracted to him. He later was released in April when it was much warmer!

In conclusion these events help us understand that whenever we are going through a rough time we should always **turn towards Allah and pray**. We should ask Him for forgiveness and help, but for that we also need to have a close relationship and *tawakkul* [trust] in Allah, like Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) did.

## Razzaq and Farida

A story for children by  
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# Centennial Celebration Day

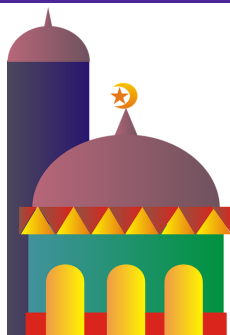
**Anaya Rana, Age 7, Boston**

The Centennial Celebration of the  
Jama'at United States was fun.  
Let's try to get all our work done.  
We will have some good times and some  
hard times.  
Let's always shine, bright like the sun.  
Try to not fight, or you will get in trouble.  
Let's always work together as one.  
Let's spread the message of peace  
everywhere.  
Love for all hatred for none.



# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN PHILADELPHIA

**Sara Khan, Age 9, Philadelphia**



We live in Philadelphia where we gathered on February 15, 2020 in our mosque, Bait-ul - Aafiyat, for the Centennial Celebration. Exactly 100 years ago, Missionary Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) arrived here with the message of Ahmadiyyat, under the guidance of Khalifat-ul-Masih II, (ra). When we came into the mosque there were lots of beautiful and colorful decorations. We were early so we helped to hang the cards in uncrowded places on the wall. After I was done hanging mine up, I held the pins in my hand so people could hang up their cards more easily. Then it was time for the speeches. After the speeches, everyone gathered for salat. Then some people went to the place where Mufti Sadiq (ra) came 100 years ago. The Centennial Celebration was fun and we are all very grateful that Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) came to America to spread our amazing religion.

## OUR MOSQUE

**Hazeem Ahmad, Age 6, Virginia South**



We celebrated the Centennial event at Masroor Mosque. We had fun. We packed food for needy people and made posters. I asked my father what the Jama'at was like in the past. He told me when he came to Virginia South Jama'at in 2010 there was no mosque. We did not build Masroor Mosque, but we bought the building, which was built as a church in 2005. He said in the future, the mosque will get bigger and more people will come, *In Sha Allah*. I promise to be responsible and keep my mosque clean.

# Centennial Day

**Shafia Mallik, Age 8,  
Maryland**

Here comes the fun:  
You know it's begun  
The lights are up  
Pour water in my cup  
100 years since its start,  
Time is a cart that does  
Not stop going fast  
Heals the bruise beneath  
The cast for they are  
Quarrels of the past 100 years of  
hope or  
Nobody could cope  
With the ways of  
Those whose souls  
Unclean, their ways plain  
Mean.  
100 years since  
The dawn of it all,  
The great call of Al-Quddus,  
the very Best,  
the Holiest.

# OUR HISTORY RECORDED IN CHICAGO MUSEUM

## Jibran Qazi, Age 10, Chicago

Three years ago, a director of a museum approached my mom about an idea they had about creating a special exhibit about Muslims in Chicago and America. The Chicago History Museum collected stories from many important Muslims and created a beautiful exhibit in our city about the important contributions we have made in the last 100 years. The most incredible thing about the exhibition is that there is a special section in the exhibit dedicated to Ahmadi Muslims. It specifically talks about how we were the very first Muslims to arrive in America and how Mufti



Muhammad Sadiq (ra) built the first mosque! This mosque is called Al-Sadiq mosque and it still stands in Chicago today. If you can visit it, you really should.

The exhibit includes pictures, Holy Qur'ans, books and stories from our Jama'at. It even has a map of all the mosques in Chicago, including Ahmadi Muslim mosques. When my family and I went to the grand opening of the exhibition, we were so amazed. I have never seen such a large exhibit in a regular museum about Muslims with even a part about Ahmadi Muslims. The exhibit shows the tremendous importance that Ahmadi Muslims played in bringing Islam to America. We should be very, very proud of everything our ancestors did to help us live as Muslims in America.



# EARLY MOSQUES IN AMERICA

**Tamseela Mumtaz, Age 9, Virginia Central**

The first Ahmadi Mosques in America are:

1. Al-Sadiq Chicago, Illinois, built in 1922
2. Fazl Mosque D.C., Virginia, built in 1950
3. Fazl-e-Umar Dayton, Ohio, built in 1953
4. Bait-ul-Muzaffar Mosque Detroit, Michigan, built in 1976
5. Yousuf Mosque Tucson, Arizona, built in 1987
6. Rizwan Mosque Portland, Oregon, built in 1987
7. Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque Chino, California, built in 1989

My local mosque is Mubarak Mosque in Chantilly, Virginia. I love to go to the mosque daily for prayers and on weekends for my Nasirat classes and Tahir Academy. I have been to Fazl Mosque, Washington D.C. It is a very old and historic mosque. Recently, I visited Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque, Chino while visiting Los Angeles and took part in our Centennial Celebrations there.



When Huzoor (aba) came to the United States, I remember I used to visit the Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland daily. Huzoor (aba) inaugurated three more mosques in October 2018 during his visit: Masjid Masroor in Virginia, Bait-ul-Aafiyat, Philadelphia, and Bait-us-Samad in Baltimore. We got the chance to go to all inaugurations, *Al-Hamdu Lillah*.

# THE FIRST MOSQUE IN QUEENS, NY

**Shafia Rizwan Hamid, Age 10, Long Island**

'Farhat Ayaz who lives in the New York City metro area. She told me stories about the first mosque in the area. The mosque was bought in Queens, New York when Rukhsana Nasir served as Sadr Lajna. She was also a lawyer. She came from England to live in New York and completed all the legal paperwork for the mosque. The first mosque, Bait-uz-Zafar, was located at 86-71 Palo Alto Street, Holliswood, NY 11423.



We were so happy to get a big mosque and a big Lajna hall because before we had this mosque we had to offer congregational salat and Eid prayer on the second floor of a smaller building. Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (rh), our beloved fourth Khalifa, graciously visited the mosque a couple of times along with other dignitaries like Missionary Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad and Ata Ullah Kaleem.

There were at least fifteen or sixteen families and about twenty Nasirat in the beginning. Every member of the Queens Jama'at made sacrifices. Lajna members sold their jewelry, some created hand-made crafts and held garage sales. With everyone's generosity and great sacrifices we were able to have a mosque to call our own.



# EARLY DAYS IN AMERICA

**Sajeela Ahmad, Age 9, Virginia South**

I had an amazing time at the Centennial Day of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. I wanted to know what the Jama'at used to be like by talking to my elders who came to the United States long before me. I decided to ask my uncle some questions and I was amazed when I heard his replies. I asked him when he came to the United States? He told me that he immigrated in 1979.

I asked him approximately how many mosques were there in the United States at that time? He said that to the best of his knowledge there were only three or four mosques in 1979. I asked which was the first mosque built after he moved to the United States? He said two mosques were built soon after he moved to this country. These mosques were in Tucson, Arizona and Chino, California.

I enquired how many people were in Phoenix Jama'at then and how it grew over time? He told me that he moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1981 with his family and they were the first and only Ahmadi Muslims in Phoenix at that time. Phoenix Jama'at was established in 1986 when there were three Ahmadi Muslim families. Currently there are thirty-five families and ninety-eight total members in the Jama'at including men, women and children!

I asked him what was the most amazing thing that happened to the Jama'at that he would like to share? He shared that the most amazing thing that happened to Phoenix Jama'at was when they established their own mosque in Phoenix in 2006, *Al-Hamdu Lillah*.



# ISLAM AHMADIYYAT IN ST. LOUIS, UNITED STATES

**Ibrahim Rashid Ahmad, Age 6, Saint Louis**

with help from Summer R. Ahmad, (mother)

Bait-ul-Hafeez Masjid in Saint Louis, Missouri is very special to me and my family. The name of the mosque is one of the 99 attributes of Allah, the Protector.

Our mosque has a lot of space so we can have community events there and we also have a library. Sometimes we have Tahir Academy class in the library or in one of the



other multipurpose rooms. I like to go to the mosque for Tahir Academy, prayers and special celebrations such as Eid.

When my mother and her family moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri from New York in 1987, they became members of the St. Louis chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Now my brothers, father and paternal grandparents are also blessed to be members of the St. Louis Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

My friends' parents and grandparents at our mosque have been in St. Louis for a long time. Some of them have been here for seventy years or more. Our Lajna Sadr, Sister Ruqiyya Hamid said, "My grandparents, the Khalids, accepted in 1946. I am proud to know that they influenced me on my journey today."

Ibrahim Khalil was one of the early St. Louis converts to

Ahmadiyyat. He was Native American, and used to be a member of an Islamic brotherhood society before converting to Ahmadiyyat.

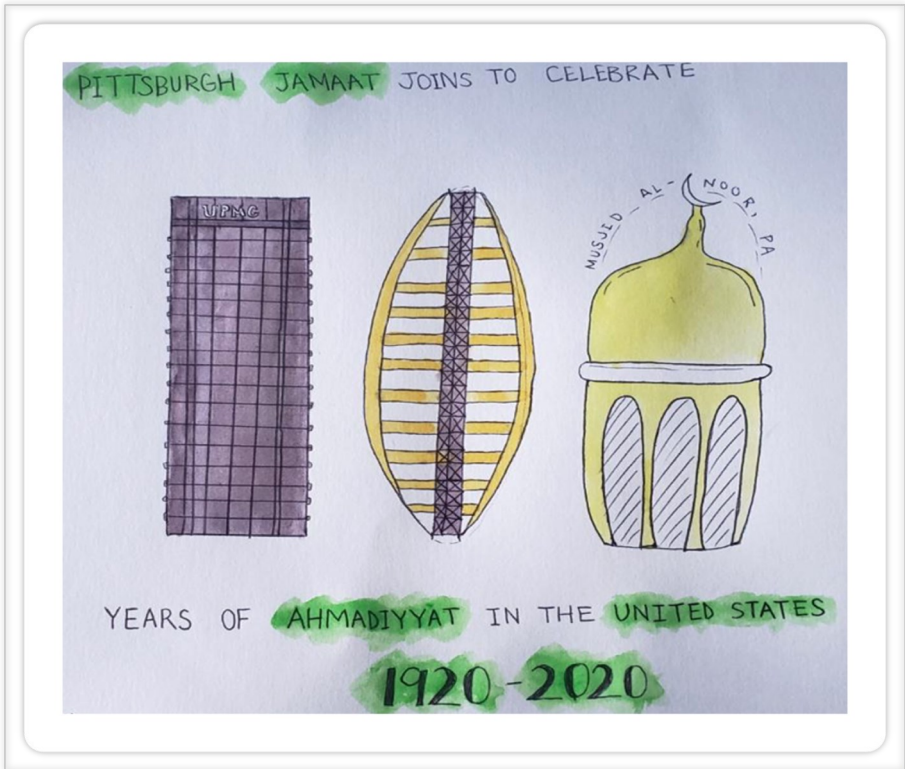
The first mosque in America was Al Sadiq Mosque in Chicago. The Pyramid Barbershop, which was across the street from Al-Sadiq Mosque, still exists today at 4338 Oakwood and was founded by Mr. Khalil.

Everyone at our mosque is kind, respectful and ready to give information from our library, books, magazines and other resources to newcomers. As an Ahmadi Muslim, I think Bait-ul-Hafeez Masjid is a fun place to come and learn and pray.

Bait-ul-Hafeez Mosque in St. Louis, MO is at the corner of Bircher and Emerson Streets.

## PITTSBURGH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF AHMADIYYAT

Iman Sajjad, Age 14, Pittsburgh



# THE FULFILLMENT OF A GRAND PROPHECY

**Mahnour Agha, Age 12, Virginia Central**

Today, we are celebrating a 100 years of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States. Do we ever consider what it was like to set foot on this new land in the early 1900s? The question intrigues the mind and to find the answer it is imperative to investigate the history of Ahmadiyyat in the United States. Fortunately, in this high-tech advanced era, finding such information is not difficult anymore. Here are some interesting facts that I found.

There is no doubt in saying that America has witnessed the fulfilment of the grand prophecy. In 1920, the first missionary, Hazrat Mufti Mohammad Sadiq (ra), a devoted companion of the Promised Messiah (as), arrived at the port of Philadelphia on February 15. In 1921, the first Ahmadi mosque in the United States was established in Chicago and the first quarterly magazine, *Muslim Sunrise*, was started. On September 15, 1948, the first Jalsa Salana was held in Dayton. In 1996, the MTA Production studio was inaugurated. Ever since, it has been broadcasting the Promised Messiah's (as) message as well as bringing people in to the circle of Islam exponentially.



In October 1994, the current headquarters of the United States Jama'at, Al-Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman, was inaugurated by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh) with about 6,000 guests participating, which replaced the previous American headquarters, Fazl Mosque, in Washington D.C.

*I shall cause thy Message to reach the corners of the earth*

Stories told by my Grandmother (Aziza Khan) and Grandfather (Dr. Agha Shahid Khan):

I am lucky to have my grandfather's brother (who is like my own grandfather to me) and his wife to tell me the stories of those times from 1971-present. My grandfather told me that in 1982 when he was doing his internship in Washington Center Hospital D.C, the Fazl Mosque was the only established mosque in Maryland and Virginia, and the missionary in charge was Maulawi Ata Ullah Kaleem. My grandfather used to take a nap after Zuhr Prayer in Maulawi Sahib's house, on the third level of the mosque. He said, "Maulawi Sahib's wife was very hospitable and used to take care of me like her own son."

My grandmother told me that when Khalifat-ul-Mash IV (rh) arrived to inaugurate the Bait-ur-Rahman mosque, a Lajna member asked him "Huzoor, how do you like our mosque?" He replied, "It is a very good mosque, but I suspect it will soon run out of space." My grandma says that we often think about these memorable words, knowing that the Jama'at will rapidly expand to this extent. My grandmother told me that, prior to their move to Baltimore, she had heard from the people residing there that they had purchased a small house in Garrison, Maryland in 1971, which was called the mission house. The headquarters did not allow them to call it a mosque because it was not an established mosque. The house was purchased with the efforts of about nine families residing in that area. They were all very devoted African American Ahamdi Muslims: Abdul Kareem, Brother Hameed, Abdul Hafeez and Jameela Hafeez, Muhammad Hafiz and Aziza Hafiz, Brother Aziz, Abd-ur-Rahman, Abdul Latif Latta, Hamza Zaiduddin and Sister Lateefa.

Baltimore, Maryland



My grandmother went to interview Abd-ur-Rahman's daughter. She told her that those nine families collected the money

while selling home-made food to people. Sister Lateefa, worked for the Social Security Administration (SSA). Once a month, SSA would keep the cafeteria closed to allow Ahmadi Muslim women sell their lunches, which greatly helped them to collect a large sum of money. Abd-ur-Rahman bought the house in an auction and the other families collected money and repaid him their share of the cost of the house. Then, in 1994 some activities were also held at Bait-ur-Rahman. It was extremely informative to hear the old stories from my grandparents, the way they set foot in the United States, and celebrated their unique identity as Ahmadi Muslims. I feel we are blessed to have been able to enjoy the established mosques. We should keep the second Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad's (ra) words in our minds.

I will end my article with his beautiful words.



At the time of the second Jalsa Salana, Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) wrote a message for the Ahmadiyya Community in the United States at the request of Missionary Khalil Ahmad Nasir.

“Dear friends and my spiritual children! Fortunately, you have got the same opportunity, being the first bearers of truth in the United States of America, being disciples of the disciples of the Promised Messiah (as)-beloved of God,

his only begotten son, in the same sense as Christ was. God has no son but those who gain his pleasure through steadfast love and never wavering faith become like sons to Him. Nay even more than that. A father may forsake his son in certain circumstances, but God never forsakes His beloved ones. You have a further blessing that you found the time of the Promised Son and so you are not mere disciples of the disciples of the Promised Messiah (as) but are also like the first disciples themselves. So, rise to the grand occasion and act according to your exalted position.”



# History of the Jama'at in Upstate New York

**Osman Bin Hammad, Age 11, Buffalo**

With help from Amatul Musawar Ahmad

The Jama'at in upstate New York started in the city of Rochester, NY. I had the chance to interview a pioneer of the Jama'at in Rochester, Sardar Rafiq Ahmad. This Jama'at was established in 1985. The stories he shared about the establishment of the Jama'at sparked interest and pride in me.

The first *Sadr* [president] of Rochester Jama'at was Dr. Naseer Tahir, and the first Imam of the region was the late Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad. The first general secretary was Sardar Rafiq Ahmad. The first member of the Rochester Jama'at was Abdul Haleem. The first Lajna President was Amtul Rauf Tahir.

Prior to having a Mosque on Merchants Road, Jama'at events were held at various locations: Williamsville-Mahmood Sahib's House, Owego-Sardar Rafiq Ahmad's House, Buffalo-Syed Shareef Ahmad's House, Pittsford Library, Syracuse-Mirza Naseer's House and Murad Khan's House, and Rochester-Dr. Naseer Tahir's House.

Prior to the establishment of the Rochester Jama'at, members would travel to Queens in New York City for Jama'at functions and events such as Eid.

In 1989, Bait-un-Naseer Mosque was inaugurated by Khalifat-ul-Mash IV (rh). It was the first mosque of the 2nd century of Ahmadiyyat in the

world. Huzoor (rh) stated at the time of inauguration, **“You have made history!”**

One fond memory that Sardar Rafiq Ahmad shared with me was about the first Eid. It took place in the house of Dr. Naseer Tahir.



At the time, he had just moved to a new house and the basement was unfinished. So, for the purpose of Eid he finished the basement overnight so the members could enjoy Eid.



Due to the growing number of members in the community, the Jama'at split. This formed Rochester and Buffalo Jama'ats. A few years later, smaller Jama'ats were formed and mosques were established in Syracuse and Binghamton as well. The Upstate New York Jama'at covered an area of approximately 200 miles. Members drove long distances to be a part of the Jama'at. This shows the dedication members had for the community.

As a current member of the Buffalo Jama'at, I am thankful for the sacrifices and efforts of the pioneers of the Jama'at. Without them, I would not be able to enjoy the Jama'at I have today.



**Sabah Chaudhry, Age 8,  
Fort Worth**

Help from Saeed Chaudhry (Father)

The first mosque I went to is called Bait-ul-Qayyum. It was purchased in November 2018. It is located in Fort Worth, Texas.

It used to be a YMCA, but we have turned it into

a mosque. My first time inside the mosque was on our first Jumu'ah. We stayed there for a long time and I enjoyed staying there.



HOW THE

# MINNESOTA JAMA'AT WAS FOUNDED

**Nymah Farid, Age 10, Minnesota**

With assistance from my brother Nauman Ahmad Farid

For this Al-Hilal issue, I interviewed the first president (Dr. Abdul Khaliq) of my Jama'at, the Minnesota Jama'at, also known as the St. Paul Jama'at. Dr. Abdul Khaliq first came to Minnesota from Pakistan via Arkansas, where he attended his higher education. Later Dr. Khaliq got a job in Minnesota. The missionary -in-charge, Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad, was the one who told Dr. Khaliq that he should start a Jama'at there. It was after this that Dr.

Khaliq, his family, and two other Ahmadi families began to hold meetings in their homes, and when their number grew, they started to hold their meetings in the community centers and public libraries.

Dr. Khaliq also gave lectures about Islam at his children's schools and at churches, where people told him that he was building

bridges between the different religions. When the Jama'at became very large, Dr. Khaliq realized that they needed more space. The Amir of the United States gave them permission to rent a place, and the Jama'at started holding their meetings there. The Jama'at started in 1988 and in 2003 they finally bought a house and went through the process of re-zoning. People then accepted it as a place of worship and they established a mosque there, which, by the Grace of Allah, was inaugurated in 2015.



**Nusrat Mosque  
Coon Rapids, Minnesota**

# RIZWAN MOSQUE, SOUTHWEST PORTLAND, OREGON

Reem Luqman, Age 11, Maryland

I chose to write about a mosque in Southwest Portland, Oregon called Rizwan Mosque. My grandfather lives across the street from this mosque and he helped me with more information about this mosque. When I asked him if he knew a few of the people who established the Rizwan Mosque, he replied, “Well, Dr. Mian Tahir and Dr. Aftab Ahmed were the two main people who established the mosque.” They had purchased some land and soon



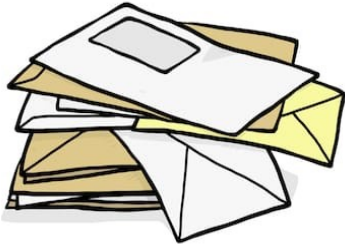
**Rizwan Mosque  
Portland, Oregon**

two other families moved in, including his. He said that after he moved there, the Jama‘at was established. The construction for the mosque started in 1987 and was inaugurated in 1988 by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh).

When I asked if the builders made any mistakes in the building process, he explained that there were no big problems, but only small ones like broken door knobs or rickety staircases. He did say that some of the neighbors opposed having a mosque “as it may disturb their peace.” By the grace of Allah, their opposition did not succeed.

My father told me about some miscellaneous things he remembered about Rizwan Mosque. He said that when the Jama‘at first started, it was very small because there were only four families and in total there were twenty-two people. There were eight adults and fourteen children. Over the next two decades, the Jama‘at grew so much, the small mosque was not enough for its members. One thing that really surprised me was when my father told me that he gave the first *Adhan* [call to prayer] at the inauguration.

My aunt was also able to help me in terms of Tabligh. She and my grandfather do a lot to help greatly in spreading the message of Islam. They shared respect for neighbors and people in general. After 9/11, people were very kind to them and sent them flowers, cards, made calls in support, and someone even put up a banner of support. They got over 300 calls in those first few days. My aunt kept track of all the names and contacts of these people and contacted them all. My aunt and my grandfather wrote letters to every school, university, church, and synagogue in the state of Oregon. The letters stated that because of recent events, people might have lots of questions, so they were available to answer any questions people may have. They went to talk to groups and they invited people to their mosque. My aunt used to keep track of all the talks they gave.



Once, some members of the Jama'at told my aunt and my grandfather to turn on the radio. When they did, a caller from one of the schools my aunt visited was complaining that, "A burqa-clad woman was brainwashing our children."

However, other callers said that it was good because the children were learning about different cultures. My aunt and grandfather really made a big difference in their community.

<http://www.mta.tv>

A screenshot of the MTA International website. At the top left is the MTA International logo. To the right are buttons for 'GET IT ON Google play', 'Windows Phone', and 'ROKU'. Below these are navigation links: 'Home', 'Schedules', 'Programmes', and 'Live'. A search bar contains the text 'Search for your favourite program'. The main content area is split into two panels. The left panel shows a 'LIVE ON DEMAND' section with a play button icon, the MTA logo, and the text 'A comprehensive online resource of MTA International's programmes'. The right panel shows a 'LIVE STREAM' section with a large play button icon and the text 'CLICK HERE TO WATCH'.

## Maulana Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad

### Hibbatul Bari Iqbal, Age 9, Virginia Central

My great grandfather, Maulana Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad, had the honor of serving the United States Jama'at. He served as the Amir and missionary in charge from 1983-1991. During this time, a lot of new mosques and centers were established in many cities across America.

In 1987, when Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh) visited the United States for the first time, he inaugurated the mosques in Cleveland, New York, Los Angeles, Portland and Willingboro. The



lands for the mosques in Detroit, Houston and New Orleans were bought under the leadership of Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad. Also, during this time, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh) laid the foundation stone of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque.

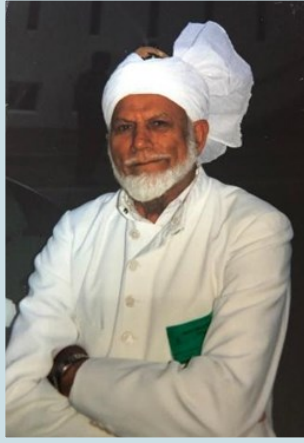
Lectures were given in schools, churches, the University of Pennsylvania, and Gettysburg College. One professor of the Gettysburg College wrote "An Introduction to Ahmadiyyat" at the request of Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad. After retiring in 1991, he continued to serve the Jama'at in various ways. He was an author and lecturer. He wrote books and even translated the Holy Qur'an into the Swahili language.

Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad passed away in 2001. May Allah bless his soul. May He help us to follow the great examples set by our elders, *Amin*.

# Maulana Ata Ullah Kaleem

Zara Ahmad, Age 12, Virginia South

Recalling and looking back at my roots, I realized my family has come a long way. It all started from my great grandfather, Ata Ullah Kaleem, an ambitious missionary who served in the United States, Germany, and Africa. I knew that my great grandfather played a major role in the community, but never realized how much love and dedication he put towards the Jama'at. I decided to interview his son, Kareem Ullah Kaleem, who served as President of Virginia South for several years, and asked him about the connection his father had towards the family and Jama'at. My great grandfather, Ata Ullah Kaleem, stayed in Africa most of his missionary years.



Back then, being a missionary was extremely difficult. Sometimes you could not communicate with your family for months or even get access to food or clean water. Even though he dealt with these hardships, he always had a smile on his face and made the best out of every single situation. He served in the United States twice and stayed for roughly seven years. Ata Ullah Kaleem was well-versed in the Holy Bible when preaching to Christians and was able to effectively communicate Islam to them. My parents told me that Ata Ullah Kaleem never missed his Salat (including Tahajjud prayers) and he always used to say, “Do not please the fellow human being, but seek the pleasure of Allah because all the blessings are from Allah.” This made me realize how much my great grandfather sacrificed for our family and the Jama'at. In learning about his life, I realized how blessed I am to have such an amazingly dedicated person who I can call my great grandfather, Maulana Ata Ullah Kaleem. May Allah elevate his status in Paradise, *Amin*.

*An Ahmadi's Story***Feeman Annas, Age 14, Virginia Central**

Imagine that you're living in the early 1980's in Pakistan. The anti-Ahmadiyya amendment has just been signed, which allows for Ahmadis to be persecuted. Wouldn't you be scared? What would you do in this position? Although Ahmadis had started to come to the United States in the 1920s, the biggest Ahmadi migration was after the ordinance was signed. Many refugees came to the States where they built new lives and continued to participate in the Ahmadiyya movement.

Even though it has been many years since the amendment was signed, many Ahmadi families still continue to live in Pakistan, but in hiding. One of these families was mine. Four years ago, we moved to the United States. There are many reasons as to why we moved, but I think one big one was because we were not safe and could not practice our religion freely. We wanted to live in a safe space where we could proudly express our religion. Of course, none of us wanted to leave the country we once called home, the country where our families still live, but the decision had been made. My younger sister, for example, was affected greatly because of the move. As a young child, my sister had asked my dad, "Can we move to Mars? Will we be safe there?" This had deeply moved my dad, and he had decided that we should move to the United States. It was hard at first, we missed everyone, but as soon as we started school, we fitted right in.

Now, even though we miss Pakistan, we have started to call America our home. We live our lives comfortably here, while also participating in our local Jama'at. Many people have different stories that explain why they moved, this was mine.





# My Grandfather's Story

## TABLIGH IN CHICAGO

**Mishelle Shamas, Age 8, Chicago**

With assistance from Nudrat Shamas

I interviewed my grandfather. His name is Jalal-ud-Din Shamas, and he is the grandson of Khair-ud-Din, a companion of the Promised Messiah (as). He came to the United States in 1962 at the age of twenty. He said, “America was strange and different from Pakistan as there was overt racial discrimination at that time. There were only 60-70 Ahmadi Muslims living in Chicago, and most of them were African American.” He has many stories about the early days in the Chicago Jama‘at of Ahmadi Muslims. My favorite one is about his fundraising for Masjid maintenance and Tabligh.

My grandfather used to cook chicken *pulao* every week for the Chicago Ahmadis to raise funds. It was the favorite dish of Ahmadis in the Chicago Jama‘at. The funds were used to buy oil to keep the mosque warm during prayer times and for Tabligh events. My grandfather said,

“Big hotels in downtown Chicago gave space for free. They used to bring water bottles and Tabligh materials to spread the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat.” He said, “The Chicago Jama‘at was small and poor. All members of the Chicago Jama‘at were like family.” He told me that every one of us is a *Muballigh*, a preacher.

He advised me to fulfill my duty and spread the message of Ahmadiyya Islam. I took his advice and started telling my classmate about Ahmadiyya Islam and why I cannot participate in certain events of school, such as Easter. I have also started wearing a scarf to identify myself as Muslim.



Rushda Bukhari, Age 14, Detroit

Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad was an Ahmadi Muslim living in Detroit. He served the Jama'at in the capacity of General Secretary. He was the second martyr of Ahmadiyyat on American soil. He was dearly loved and respected by all members.

### What happened?

It all started when the president of the Detroit Jama'at, Nasir Malik received a phone call from a person who expressed interest in learning more about Ahmadiyyat. Since preparations



were underway to hold that year's Jalsa Salana in Detroit, Mr. Malik was too busy to answer the call. Mr. Malik asked if anyone else could take the call and help the man on the phone. Dr. Muzaffar eagerly offered his service. Thus, on August 8, 1983 the caller went to Dr. Muzaffar's home to gain information about Ahmadiyyat. After a lengthy meeting he left, but suddenly came back claiming that he had left his hat behind. Dr. Muzaffar opened the door to let him in. The man shot Dr. Muzaffar four times and then fled. Missionary Mirza Afzal was also present in the house and found Dr. Muzaffar on the floor. By the time the emergency services arrived, Dr. Muzaffar had passed away to become the second martyr in the United States of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. It is obvious that this traumatic incident would haunt all those present forever. However, what happened after this event was unbelievable.

### The Hitman Was Not Done Yet

After Dr. Muzaffar had been shot, people in the Detroit Jama'at were in a state of panic. At the time of the shooting many members

along with their children had gathered at the home of Laeeq Butt in preparation for the Jalsa. After receiving the news about the martyrdom, the adults acted quickly and left for Canton (the suburb where Dr. Muzaffar lived). While the community was trying to cope with the situation, the hitman was on the move, he had another plan in mind. He was joined by his partner; thus William Cane and Calvin Jones were out to kill key members of the community and then destroy their mosque. As such they arrived at the home of Laeeq Butt and flung two “bottle bombs” through the window. Luckily these bombs did not detonate.



Detroit Masjid after the fire

The two men then arrived at the Detroit Mosque with gasoline containers. They entered through the back window on the second story of the building and spread the gasoline everywhere and set the building on fire. Their original plan was to light the fire and flee through the backdoor. However they couldn't open the backdoor and got trapped in the blaze. They ran to find

somewhere to hide from the fire. They went into the stone bathroom and locked the door but there was no way out. They suffocated and died in the same fire which they had started.

The FBI's investigation later found all the evidence they needed to accuse them of the crimes they had committed.

### The Miracle!

As a result of the fire, the Detroit Mosque was destroyed and everything was burnt. Even the metal fridge melted but certain cardboard boxes remained in tact! These boxes carried about 2,000 copies of the Holy Qur'an intended to be given out on the occasion of Jalsa Salana. These Qur'ans were unscathed, which was certainly



Some of the copies of the Holy Qur'an which survived the arson attack.

a miracle. In his Friday Sermon of August 12, 1983, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh) used the following words for Dr. Muzaffar Shaheed:

چشم بصیرت سے دیکھو کہ مظفر آج بھی زندہ ہے بلکہ پہلے سے کہیں بڑھ کر  
زندگی پا گیا۔  
پس اے مظفر، تجھ پر سلام کہ تیرے عقب میں لاکھوں مظفر آگے بڑھ کر تیری جگہ  
لینے کے لئے بے قرار ہیں۔

**“If you look at it with an eye of discernment, Muzaffar is still alive and enjoys a life far beyond. O Muzaffar, may peace be on you. In your shadow there are numerous Muzaffars eager to step forward and take your place.”**

May Allah elevate the status of the shaheed and continue to bless the Jama‘at in the United States, *Amin*.

## Interview with my Grandfather



**Sarmed Ahmad, Age 7, Virginia South**

I interviewed my grandfather about what the United States Jama‘at was like when he first came to America. My grandfather arrived in Phoenix, Arizona in 1995. There was no official mosque at that time and only a few Ahmadi Muslim families lived there. My grandfather still remembers one person used to travel fifty miles. There was one small mosque around 100 miles away. He liked visiting the mosque in Chino, California and Bait-ur-Rahman in Silver Spring, Maryland. He later moved to Northern Virginia. They were using a rented place as a mosque where they performed congregational prayer. His best memories are about attending Jalsa Salana and Ijtimas every year. He is happy that now Northern Virginia has two mosques: one in Chantilly and another in Manassas within an hour’s distance. He wishes that all Ahmadi Muslims always listen to Huzoor (aba) and offer their five daily prayers regularly.



# MY FAMILY HISTORY

## Sahibzada Nabeel Ahmad, Age 9, Virginia North

My grandfather came to America in 1962 as a missionary. He spent most of his time in Chicago, Illinois. He helped convert many people to Ahmadiyyat. He was also interviewed by the Chicago Daily News and the Chicago Sun Times. His name is Aminullah Khan Salik. He passed away in 2017. I have heard a lot of stories about him from my Grandma, Uncle, and Mom.

Once, Dr. Masood Malik of Maryland visited our family and told me a story about my grandfather. Masood Malik came to America as a student. He was visiting Chicago with his friends, so he decided to visit the mission house. He was staying in a hotel with his friends. Masood Sahib did not know the address or phone number of the mission house. He asked other people and looked through the telephone directory, but he was not able to find any information about the mission house. While he was sitting in the lobby of his hotel and was wondering how to find contact information of the mission house, he saw a person in the lobby holding Ahmadiyya literature. He went up to that person and asked him if he was Ahmadi. The person said that he was not Ahmadi, but that he had received this literature from an Ahmadi missionary. He gave Masood Malik the number and address of the mission house. So, because of my grandfather's Tabligh and literature distribution, Masood Malik was able to find the mission house.

Afterwards, my grandfather came to Pakistan and got married. Then he served as a missionary in the U.K and Liberia. Then, when my mom was two years old, they moved back to America. Their first home in America was the Fazl Mosque in Washington D.C. I talked to my grandmother and she told me when they lived in the Fazl



Fazl Mosque, Washington D.C.

Mosque in the late 70s, there was just one mosque for D.C, Maryland, and Virginia. Now, there are several mosques in those states. Over one thousand people go to my mosque (Mubarak Mosque). My grandmother said that when my grandfather was a missionary in America, the missionaries lived in tough conditions and did not have much money. He was very patriotic and loved America. One of his biggest dreams was to see new mosques in all corners of America. His dream is coming true.

# My Dad in America



**Amtul Noor Ridaa, Age 12, LA East**

My father's name is Iftikhar Khan. He was the first of my immediate family to come to America. He was born and raised in Pakistan. He came to the United States for religious freedom, so that he could serve the Jama'at freely and safely. He came in July 1984. At that time, the Olympics were happening in America, so the airport was very packed and he did not know what to do or

where to go. Luckily, he had a cousin that was already in America who helped him and showed him around Los Angeles. At first, he started offering Friday prayers in LA West with a few Ahmadi Muslim students at home. A few years after he arrived, the Jama'at started building the Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque. They had bought a farmer's land in Chino.



**Baitul Hameed Mosque  
Chino, California**

At the time there were only two rooms, so the men offered their prayers in one room and women offered theirs in the other room. It was a very tight space, but they were grateful and happy for the space. Over time, the mosque grew and with more floors added it became the great mosque we have today! My father is very glad he came before there was a mosque because he was able to see progress and how the mosque was built. I am also grateful to my father for coming to America. I was born and raised here and I've had a great life so far! *Jazakallah* for reading my article.

# The Struggles of Immigration

**Maleeha Bushra, Age 14, Virginia Central**

Immigration: according to Google, the definition of immigration is, “The action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country.” Different people have different reasons to immigrate. In the Ahmadiyya community, the most common reason for members to immigrate is because their home country does not accept Ahmadis as Muslims. For example, many families from Pakistan immigrate to the United States seeking better opportunities to practice faith freely. Our beloved Huzoor (aba) said, “Many local people are afraid that their societies are changing beyond comprehension and they feel that their nation’s resources are being disproportionately utilized in favor of immigrants.

Whilst the term ‘immigrant’ is used, the real issue for most people is ‘Islam’ and the fact that the vast majority of immigrants to Europe are Muslims fleeing from war-torn countries in the Middle East.”

Fear is a big reason for migration. People who live in the countries to which immigrants are migrating are also fearing this influx of new people who they do not understand. As a result, Islam, especially in the media, is being portrayed in a negative light. Immigrating to the United States is challenging. Immigrants have to work hard to earn for their family and, with time and with Allah’s grace, things do improve for most. My prayers go to the families struggling in this process. With Allah’s grace, *In Sha Allah*, it will get better.



# A PASSION FOR PREACHING

**Amal Raafia Rafiq, Age 7, Virginia South**

When the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) preached Islam in Mecca, he faced persecution. After 13 years, Allah Ta'ala told the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) to migrate to Medina. My family also has a story of persecution and migration.

My great-grandfather, Maulawi Muhammad Saad, was a missionary and teacher of the Holy Qur'an. When Jama'at headquarters changed from Qadian to Rabwah, my great grandfather offered himself as a Waqf-i-Zindagi [life devotee] in the service of Islam. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) assigned him to different areas in Pakistan where he preached the true Islam and taught Holy Qur'an. He traveled to many places in Pakistan upon the directives of Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra). As a missionary, he faced many challenges but always kept faith in Allah and taught his family the same.



Just like his father, my grandfather, Munawar Ahmad Malik, also has a passion for preaching. He served as the president of his Jama'at in Karachi, Pakistan. Even though he faced persecution, he continued to preach the true Islamic teachings. However, he eventually had to migrate to America because of religious persecution in Pakistan. I am grateful to my great-grandfather and grandfather for passing on the torch of faith to me.





# Our Jama'at



**Asifa Malik, Age 9, Austin**

In the early years when there were only a few  
we started our Jama'at and now we have  
*Al-Hamdu Lillah*, many and you.  
We started in homes for Jumu'ah and meetings  
Now Ma Sha Allah we have big beautiful buildings.  
Our masjids are all across the country  
Some old, some new, some big, some small  
But any size it may be  
You will still find peace and harmony.

## AN EARLY PIONEER

**Ali Ahmad Khan, Age 8, North Jersey**

Rashid Ahmad accepted Ahmadiyya Islam in 1997 in Chicago. He was one of the most effective members of the Jama'at in *Tabligh*. He traveled to Rabwah, Pakistan and became the first African American to study in Jami'a. Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (ra), personally welcomed him at the railway station at Rabwah, Pakistan.



**Rabwah Railway Station**

# Our Roots in Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at United States

**Aiyza Alladin, Age 13 & Ishal Alladin, Age 11, Long Island**

We would like to narrate a story about our grandmother, Khullat Alladin, who is an early pioneer of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at in America. In 1949, Khullat Alladin and her mother visited the first headquarters of the Jama'at, Al-Sadiq Mosque in Chicago, to reunite with her father, Khalil Nasir. Khalil Nasir was the fourth missionary-in-charge of the United States Jama'at. In 1946, Khalil Nasir was sent to the United States as a missionary under the instruction of Khalifat-ul-Mash II, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (ra). In 1949, Khullat Alladin and her family



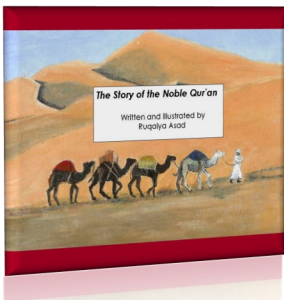
moved to Washington D.C. As directed by Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra), they purchased the American Fazl Mosque in LeRoy Place. The Fazl Mosque is very central in the district of the embassies for various countries, which are centered around Connecticut Avenue. The national headquarters

remained at Fazl Mosque until it was moved to Bait-ur Rahman in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Khullat Alladin grew up during a challenging time of racial inequality in US history when segregation between white and black people existed until 1964. When she first moved from Hyderabad, India, she had difficulty learning the English language, especially in school. *Al-Hamdu Lillah*, she received help from her Jama'at friends who mostly spoke English. During the pioneer years of the

Jama'at other early converts, who were friends with my aunty were Shakura Nooriah, Fatima Usman, Al-hajj Muzaffar Ahmad Zafar, and more.

In 1960, Khullat Alladin moved to Long Island, New York. Khalil Nasir was a professor who taught political science at Long Island University Post in Brookville, New York. During that time, Khullat Alladin was part of the New York Jama'at, which included New Jersey and Connecticut, and went to the Palo Alto Queens Mosque. In 1968, she married our grandfather, Rashid Alladin, and had three children, our father, Dr. Irfan Alladin, Rizwan Alladin, and Rabia Chaudhry. By the Grace of Allah, they have ten grandchildren: Adnan Alladin, Aafia Alladin, Eesha Alladin, Aiyza Alladin, Ishal Alladin, Faraan Alladin, Aleena Alladin, Ateeqa Alladin, Momin Chaudhry, and Dania Chaudhry. Currently, our grandmother is a proud member of the Long Island Jama'at. May Allah enable us to appreciate our grandmother's story as an early pioneer of the United States Jama'at and may we carry on this special family legacy, *In Sha Allah*.



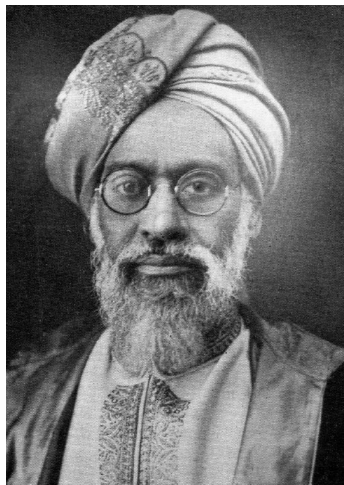
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# ST. LOUIS PIONEER FAMILIES - AN INTERVIEW

**Nuriya Rodney & Summer R. Ahmad, Saint Louis**  
(Adult submission)



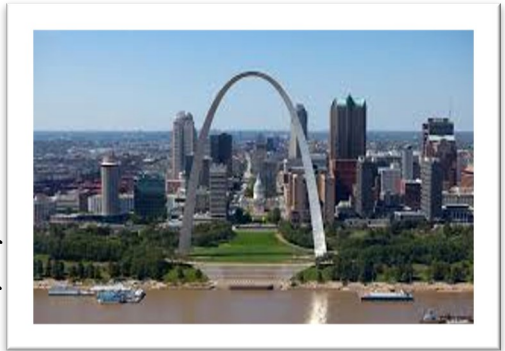
Saint Louis, Missouri is a very important city from which Ahmadiyyat in America started and spread to other regions such as Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Zion, Illinois. The first Ahmadi missionary, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra), was sent to the United States in 1920. After moving from the East Coast to Chicago, Dr. Sadiq (ra) established the first Ahmadiyya mosque in America. He converted a man from Saint Louis, Sheikh Ahmad Din (P. Nathaniel Johnson). Din went on to become a preacher of Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam. Other Saint Louis citizens who converted were Brother Omar (William M. Patton) and Sister Noor (Ophelia Avant).

In the 1930s, a group of Muslims who were already members of a Muslim brotherhood converted to Ahmadiyyat. The Pyramid Barbershop, later owned by Brother Munir Ahmad, played a central role to Ahmadiyyat in Saint Louis. The message of One God and True Islam were displayed in the window of the barbershop. Through the efforts of missionary Khalil Ahmad Nasir and other extraordinary men and women of the Saint Louis area, and by Allah's Grace, Ahmadiyyat continued to grow and spread.

Dr. Basyir Rodney, when asked about his journey to Islam, said,

“Prayers offered in childhood often lead to transformational changes in adulthood. In my early years as a child, I would often pray for God to reveal himself to me, and for him to guide me to the right path. I would make these prayers in the dead of night when I found myself awake while lying in bed, or in the quietude of my bathroom. In that search, God led me to Islam at the age of 16, and Ahmadiyyat at 19. On this life journey, God has answered this prayer over and over, filling my life with a God loving wife and prayerful children. Even as I walk my own journey, through them, Allah reveals himself to me every day.”

Dr. Basyir’s constant search for the truth led him to Ahmadiyyat, and Ahmadiyyat led him to Saint Louis; a city with rich history not only as an American city, but as one of the foundational cities of Ahmadiyyat in this country.



Sister Najma Rafat of Saint Louis, said, “As Muslims we should seek knowledge from cradle to grave, as the Holy Prophet (sa) said. When I came into Islam, I was twenty years old and Islam was really important in shaping my thinking about the importance of Islamic education. I learned then that I can’t accept conclusions and findings at face value. We have to verify them with the Qur’an, the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as) so that we can be leaders of thought.”

Our Saint Louis Sadr Lajna, Sister Ruqiyya Hamid shared her family’s interesting journey to Ahmadiyyat,

“My grandparents [Usman and Amina Khalid] accepted Islam under a mufti in 1947. There was a brother named Ibrahim Khalil

who was of Native American descent that told my grandfather that there is a group of Muslims who will teach you. My grandfather was intrigued and started learning Islam from an Ahmadi African American brother, Ali Razaa, who studied under Ghulam Yasin at the Fazl Mosque, 4112 LeRoy Place in Washington, DC. This brother taught many converts Qur'an and other teachings in the 1940s. When it came time for my grandparents to sign the bai'at, there were no pledge forms in Saint Louis at the time, so they signed a piece of paper that said they were under the umbrella of the Promised Messiah (as). Can you imagine never meeting the Khalifa? Never meeting a missionary and having that amount of devotion to your religious journey that you are about to take?

I remember my grandmother saying that what made her sign the bai'at with my grandfather was the change of his character. She saw that the religion made him a better man. My grandfather mentioned that the first book that sealed their journey on the path was the Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam. This book made it so easy for him to understand the pathway he wanted to be on for himself and his family.



Most are too young to remember the 1940s, and most that lived this era have moved on. Let me paint a picture. The United States for African Americans was just about 75 years out from slavery. There was segregation, which means separate water fountains, separate entrances to buildings, separate churches, schools, etc. Not only that, most African Americans were church going people who were very proud and had persevered through much discrimination. Imagine telling your family you are changing to a faith of people that didn't look like you, and

everything was foreign to the ears of your Christian family? In most families, African American converts are disowned or estranged from family members for years. Can you imagine the many sacrifices African American converts had to make? There are many memories and stories of families who worked together to get people to the mosque, for instance, Brother Ali Razaa and Brother Abdullah Aziz, to name a few.

Lastly, I remember hearing about the dinners that the members sold to pay the bills at the storefront mosque. All that money went to a mosque fund that helped to fund the mosques that we are currently at now. My grandparents mentioned a chanda board that was posted in the front of the mosque. Everyone saw what each other gave and always tried to give more next time. Fast forward to the 1970s and I was a child and remember the family of the Saint Louis Ahmadiyya Community. I call them a family because that is how you felt. I was everyone’s child and everyone had a part in raising me to continue to love the journey of being a Muslim in the Ahmadiyya Community in the United States.”



[www.humanityfirst.org](http://www.humanityfirst.org)

# WARM AND BRIGHT: SADR DHIYA BAKR

Mehrosh Shams, Age 11, IL-Zion  
Help from Father, Naser-ud-din Shams

I am now eleven years old and throughout my life I have always seen Aunty Dhiya Bakr at the forefront of our Jama'at's activities. She has selflessly served the cause of Ahmadiyyat, sacrificing her time, money and family life. Currently, she is serving as the National Sadr of Lajna Ima'illah, USA. I was privileged to interview her to understand her journey to Islam.

Dhiya Bakr accepted Islam over thirty-five years ago, back in December of 1984. She recalls her first interest in Islam at the tender age of twelve years old. She also interacted with some Muslims when she was in high school. However, it wasn't until Dhiya attended college that she met Ahmadi Muslims. They gave her some literature and that piqued her interest even further. She read the books and eventually accepted the truth of Ahmadiyyat.

Unlike some families of converts, Dhiya's family was not upset at her conversion. They had known her to be unique and different, with a thirst for seeking knowledge about Islam. Even before Islam, her family used to stay away from bad influences. She lived a practically straight life and did not eat pork during the years leading up to her acceptance of Islam.



When I asked her how she picked the name Dhiya, she told me that her friends in college used to refer to her as being a warm and bright person. She said that when she later discovered that the word **ذِيَا** *dhiya* in the Holy Qur'an means a radiating light, she decided to adopt that as her Muslim name. I looked up



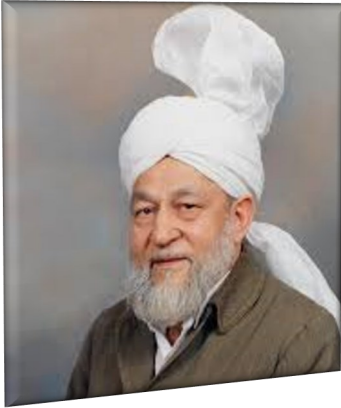
that word in the Holy Qur'an, and I found it in Surah Yunus:

*“He it is Who made the sun radiate a brilliant light [dhiya] and the moon reflect a lustre, and ordained for it stages, that you might know the number of years and the reckoning of time.”* [Ch. 10: V. 6]

Once she accepted Islam, one of her challenges was wearing the hijab because she was a nurse in the medical profession. The hijab would sometimes get in the way of her medical procedures.

Aunty Dhiya has always been an active member. She was one of the early teachers of Zion's Camp Bismillah, which began with a vision similar to today's Tahir Academy. She served as Zion's local Lajna Sadr for two terms, and was the local Tabligh Secretary as well. On a larger scale, she served as the National Tabligh Secretary since 1998, which lasted until she was elected as the National President of the USA Lajna Ima'illah—the position she holds today.

A couple of fun facts about Aunty Dhiya is that her nikah ceremony was performed by Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh), and she happens to be married to the current President of our Zion Jama'at, Abu Bakr.



One vivid memory she shared with me was how she was preparing for Huzoor's visit to Zion in 2012. She scrubbed the floors and the rooms until she was the last to leave at 2:00 AM—and that was after the Ansar and Khuddam on duty insisted she had done more than enough! True to her name, Aunty Dhiya glows with warmth and brightness. May Allah continue to bless us with her light! Amīn.



# A LAJNA PIONEER: AUNTY NYCEMA YAQUB

**Rabwah Shams, Age 8, IL-Zion**

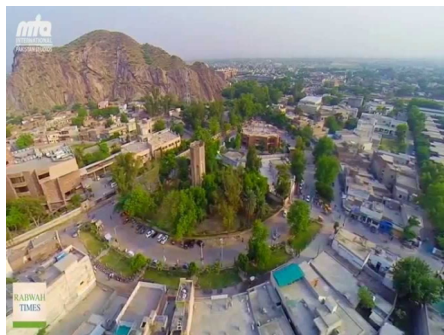
With assistance from Father, Naser-ud-din Shams

Aunty Nycemah Yaqub was born an Ahmadi Muslim in 1937. Her father, Nurul Islam, accepted Islam in 1933 and he was the President of the Chicago Jama'at for 20 consecutive years. He passed away in 1984. Aunty Nycemah's mother, Nyeema Islam, was a woman of extremely high morals and she practiced what she preached; she passed away in 1973. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'oon.*

Aunty Nycemah married Uncle Al-Haj Dhul Yaqub of the Milwaukee Jama'at in 1984. At the time they met, they both were the presidents of the Chicago Jama'at. They moved to Milwaukee in 1995, where Uncle Dhul became a CEO of a company. He has also served the Milwaukee Jama'at as the Finance Secretary for many years and he introduced the computerized process to National. They are still happily married today, by the grace of Allah.

Aunty Nycemah was National President of Lajna Ima'illah USA for five years during the mid-1970s, and has served the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in several offices, including as local president of the Washington and Chicago Jama'ats, and the National Rishta Nata Secretary. In 2000, Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh) agreed that she should go to Ghana, West Africa to find husbands for African-American sisters. Huzoor also asked her to visit Nigeria in her search. From this effort, she was able to arrange five marriages between the West Africans and the Americans.





While she was the National President, she visited Rabwah, Pakistan, the International Headquarters. She had three meetings with Khalifat-ul-Masih III (rh). He shared a lot of history and



knowledge with her about Pakistan and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community there. During this time, Ahmadi Muslims across the Punjab had just gone through a period of vicious attacks by non-Ahmadi Muslims. Huzoor (rh) made special arrangements by providing a car and driver for Auntie Nycemah to tour the areas that had been under attack and to talk with the Ahmadis in those locations.

To the best of Auntie Nycemah's knowledge, she and Fatimah Mahmud are the first two American Ahmadis to perform the Hajj. They both went there together in 1971, even though everyone discouraged them, saying it was too dangerous for two females travelling alone. Another honor received during her term as the National President was speaking at the women's arm of the United Nations at its Washington DC chapter.

Auntie Nycemah was one of four women asked by Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh) to prepare an index for the "Five Volume Commentary", which is almost 3,000 pages long. The task was to be completed in three months! She worked diligently with the three other women: Aisha Sharif (the Chairperson of the team), Shakura Noorah, and Ayesha Hakeem. With such an arduous task, they engaged eight other sisters to assist them, who are also mentioned in the Foreword of those five volumes. These women compiled an index that was 92 pages long - so long that it required its own Table of Contents!

May Allah bless Auntie Nycemah with a long life of health and happiness for all of her selfless sacrifice and service to the cause of Ahmadiyyat! *Amīn*.

# I Remember Sister Aliyyah Shaheed

**Zoha Haider Khan, Age 14, Pittsburgh**

My name is Zoha Haider Khan, and I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and attend Mosque Al-Noor. I have had the pleasure of meeting and becoming close to my beloved Sister Aliyyah Shaheed. She was an early pioneer of our USA Jama'at. She is one of the most remarkable women I have met in my life and bestowed countless blessings and life lessons upon me. Even when she was at the hospital, she always prayed and never lost faith in Allah. I was lucky enough to visit her in Upper St. Clair Hospital and see her. One of the fondest memories I have of her is that she would always attend the Jama'at meetings and would do her best to always take part in everything. Not only was this incredibly inspiring considering her age, but it always brought happiness to everyone's day with her smile and personality.

She managed to come to the mosque even at the age of one hundred years old. She always said if she didn't attend the mosque she would miss the faces of everyone there and being around all the sisters. Not only that, but on Eid, she would come to the Mosque and would give each child there eidy. These



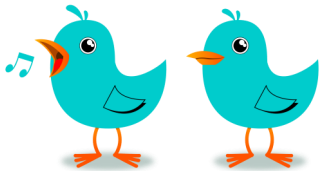
simple actions she did made a big impact on everyone there. You don't need to buy someone the most luxurious things possible, simply a small token for someone to remember you by and make their day better is all it takes. Even though she has passed away, the memory of her will always live on in our mosque and hearts.

## Stories of our Roots

**Tania Choudhry, Age 10, Boston**

My name is Tania Choudhry and my favorite subject in school is social studies. I enjoy social studies because I can learn about the past and learn about events that happened before I was born. I also enjoy hearing stories from my parents childhood as I can learn from their past too.

My mom once relayed a story to me about how when she was little, growing up in Pakistan, she would wake up early every morning to observe Fajr Prayer. After Fajr Prayer she would recite from the Holy Qur'an. While doing so, every morning my mom would hear birds chirping a beautiful song, and even in America today, she still hears those beautiful birds every morning after prayer and recitation of the Holy Qur'an.



I believe that Allah sent those birds to my mom because she made the effort to wake up early every morning to say Fajr Prayer and she put Allah before sleep.

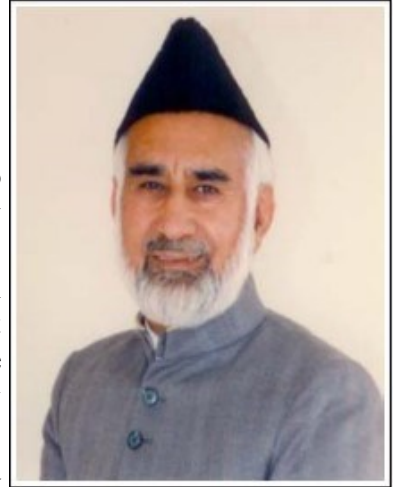
My mom once told me that Satan is always encouraging us to stay in bed, to miss prayer and that nothing will happen. That made me realize, if you are tired and don't feel like getting up for Fajr Prayer, try to resist Satan and think of the beautiful spiritual birds Allah will send to you if you put Him first.

# MUBASHER AHMAD: GRANDFATHER, IMAM, IMMIGRANT

Interview with My Grandfather By: Armaan Asad, Age 12, Maryland

## The Early Years

My grandfather's name is Mubasher Ahmad. It is an Arabic name meaning, "the person who brings good things." He is currently 78 years old. He was born in Qadian, India in 1942. At that time, Pakistan did not exist because Pakistan was not created until 1947. Qadian is where the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community started. It was founded in 1889 in Qadian, India by the Promised Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as).



*An earlier photograph of my grandfather as an imam*

My grandfather was raised in a family that practiced Ahmadiyyat, and this had a large impact on his life. One of my grandfather's first memories as a child was the partition of 1947: the segregation of British India into Pakistan and modern day India. As a result of this separation, my grandfather remembers moving with his family to Pakistan. My great-grandfather, Aziz Ahmad, was in the army and stationed in Abbottabad. His family lived there until 1953. In Abbottabad, my grandfather attended an army school and participated in boxing and marching. He had many friends and they used to play hockey and soccer together. However, my grandfather also enjoyed reading books and drawing. He says, "I loved to go to school, and when I got home I liked to read books. Whatever pocket money I had, I went to the market and purchased some books, so I had many books. I was also very good at drawing, so I also liked to draw." One of my grandfather's most memorable activities was flying gliders. He explains, "Gliders were taken to an airport on a Jeep.

The Jeep drives and when you reach a certain height, you unhook from the Jeep, and you can fly for 5 - 10 minutes.”

As a student, my grandfather continued studying and earned his Bachelor’s degree in English. He also earned an LLB, Bachelor’s of law in Pakistan. His first job was an assistant professor at Peshawar University. He used to teach English to the agricultural students. In 1965, he married my grandmother, Nusrat. They created a home together in Peshawar and had three children. However, riots and protests against Ahmadiis were increasing. Religious leaders of Pakistan were against the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community that my grandfather belonged to and they wanted to declare them not Muslim. My grandfather realized that Pakistan would no longer be a safe place to raise his family.



My grandmother, aunt, uncle, and parents at the opening of Bait-ur-Rahman (1994)

### *Taking A Risk: Coming to America*

In 1972, my grandfather brought his entire family from Pakistan to Maryland. Even though the main reason he moved to America was because of the events occurring in Pakistan, he did not think that it would be permanent. He says, “I thought when I came to America, that I could get a PhD and then go back to Pakistan to continue my teaching profession, but when I saw how bad it was in Pakistan I didn’t think it would be good for my family to go back.”



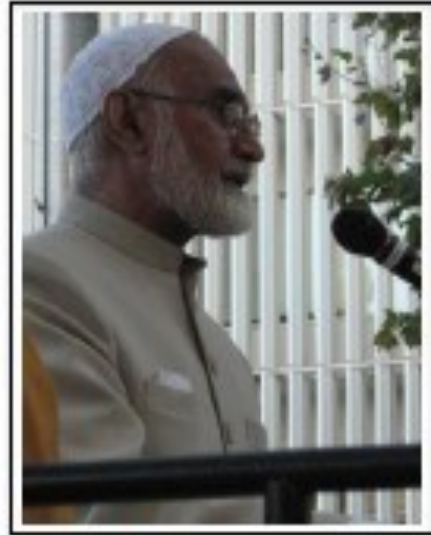
Overlap of American and Pakistani flags

When my grandfather first moved to America, he had to work a variety of menial jobs, such as at a laundromat, pizza shop, and vacuum business. When comparing Pakistan to America, my grandfather said, “Life was simple in Pakistan and was not as complicated as it is here because of the technology here. It was also difficult in Pakistan. I didn’t have a car there and none of my family members had cars so we had to catch a bus. When I had to go to

my university, a bus came to my home and it was a long drive to my university. There were no telephones, so we had to just go and knock on the door if we wanted to visit a friend or relative.” Speaking on communication, my grandfather believes that technology is one of the most important advancements that he saw in moving to America. Overall, my grandfather enjoys it here in America much more than in Pakistan because he says the education is better, the people are more civilized, there is no fighting between religious beliefs, and he can have many friends that have different beliefs.

### *A Man Of God*

When my grandfather came to Peshawar in 1953, his grandfather was a very religious person. He used to take my grandfather to the mosque every Friday. His grandfather also had a large library with lots of religious books. From this, my grandfather became interested in the study of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. As he grew up, he continued to be a part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community and volunteer his time to his religion. Even when working his many jobs in America, he would translate sermons and Urdu texts to English. After some years, he wrote a letter to the head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community asking to become an Imam, a Muslim missionary, and was accepted. After this, my grandfather began working at his mosque full time. In 1987, he moved to the Baltimore Mission House. Over the next fifteen years, my grandfather was transferred to Philadelphia, Chicago, San Jose, and Houston before returning home to Baltimore. During his career as an Imam, my grandfather has continued to pursue his interest in English and literature, a trait

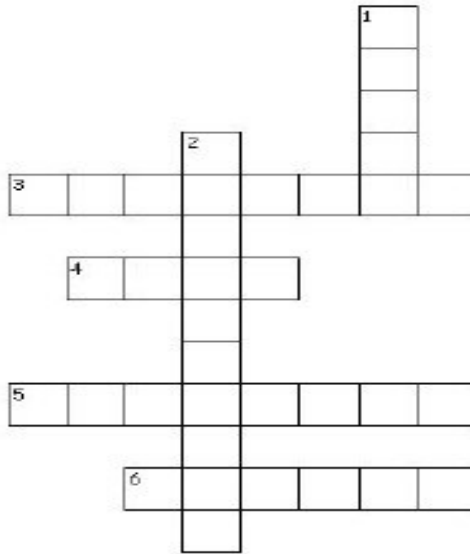


*My grandfather giving a sermon*



he cultivated since he was young. He has written two books regarding religion and is in the process of completing a third. In addition, he has produced many published articles. His parting advice for me is, “Time is precious. Once the time goes, you will never get it back, so use your time wisely. Always put your mind to something. You should have a clear goal and go for that goal. You should also remain truthful to yourself and to your parents and serve others because serving others is the greatest joy that you can have.”

# The Asad Weekly Crossword



**Across**

- 3. The city to which Missionary Mubasher Ahmad moved in 1953
- 4. A leader of the Muslim congregational prayer, a missionary
- 5. The state in America to which Missionary Mubasher Ahmad moved
- 6. The city in which Missionary Ahmad Mubasher was born

**Down**

- 1. The country of Missionary Mubasher Ahmad’s origin
- 2. The religious community of which Missionary Mubasher Ahmad is a part of

# Glossary

Abū Dāwūd ابو داود : A collection of Aḥadīth. The author of this collection.

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.

Al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.

Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen] آمين : So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Qur'an.

As-Salāmu `Alaikum اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ : May peace be upon you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

Bukhari: A collection of Ahadith. The author of this collection.

Chanda: چنده Monetary contribution, donation. (The ha at the end is to indicate a fath on dal, and is not pronounced, so should not be explicitly written in the transliteration of the word.)

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...) حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد, may Allah be his Helper: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Ḥuḍūr [Ḥudhūr, Ḥuzūr, Huzoor] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Iftār افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftārī افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

Ijtima: gathering

Jalsa Salana: Annual Convention

Jama`at: Community

Nāsirāt ناصرات : helpers (feminine). A member of Majlis Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya, association of young Ahmadi girls.

Sadaqah صدقه : alms

Tabligh: Preaching

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True Story of a Prince

Rabia's Eid

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud  
Ahmad, the Promised Reformer  
(may Allah be pleased with him)

Hadhrat Safiyyah  
(May Allah be pleased with her)

Ḥaḍrat Nuh (peace be on him) and  
the Great Flood

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad  
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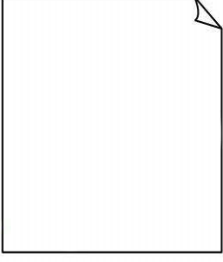
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**Vol. 21**



**2020 Issue 2**



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*United States of America*

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