

Ansar Connection

A biweekly e-newsletter of Majlis Ansarullah, USA

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The Model Village Initiative

By: Qamar Zafar (Qaid Ithar, Majlis Ansarullah USA)

وَفِي آموالِهِمْ حَقٌّ لِّلسَّائِلِ وَالْمَحْرُوْمِ

And in their wealth was a share for one who asked for help and for one who could not. (51:20)



During a meeting with the National Amila of Majlis Ansarullah USA in 2022, Huzur (may Allah be his Helper) asked if the Majlis is currently sponsoring any Model Villages in Africa? He instructed the Majlis Ansarullah USA to take on this initiative. Thereafter, this initiative was also discussed as a Shura proposal in

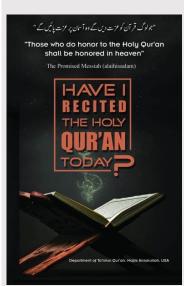
2022. In keeping with the approved Shura proposal, it is the goal of the Majlis Ansarullah USA is to raise \$150,000 this year for the Model Village initiative.

What is a Model Village?

Some of the basic necessities of life which we take for granted in the West are a struggle to sustain in other parts of the world, especially in the African continent. Borne out of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV's (may Allah have mercy on his soul) vision for Africa, the goal of a Model Village is to provide a residential community with:

- 1. Electricity
- 2. Clean water
- 3. Vocational training center

Here is a 3 min introduction of the Model Village of Mehdi Abad, Burkina Faso (the same village where 9 Ahmadis were martyred earlier this year). The Model Village initiative is supervised, supported and enabled by the International Association of Ahmadi Architects and Engineers' (or IAAAE) National chapters in Europe and US. Ansar brothers are encouraged to donate towards this initiative by logging into <u>AManaT</u>.



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Tests of our faith at times

By: Nadim Malik (New York, NY Majlis)



On our spiritual journeys, there are twists and turns and ups and downs. There are times when our faith is strong, our connection with Allah is solid, and we feel love and empathy with our fellow jamaat members and community at large. There are other times when things may not be as strong in certain areas, maybe our heart is not in our prayers and we're just going through the motions, or we don't like the way something is being

managed or driven, or how funds are being allocated. These moments test our faith.

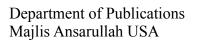
As an example, I recently mentioned in a Jamaat meeting that one of the reasons our youth do not come to the Mosque is the quality and content of our programs. The day I made that comment happened to be the very same day we held "The Holy Prophet: Messenger of Peace" conference at our mosque, which was absolutely amazing. The speeches were excellent, and it made me wish all my neighbors, co-workers, and friends were present to hear the powerful and truthful message that was delivered. It was almost as if Allah was responding to my earlier comment directly.

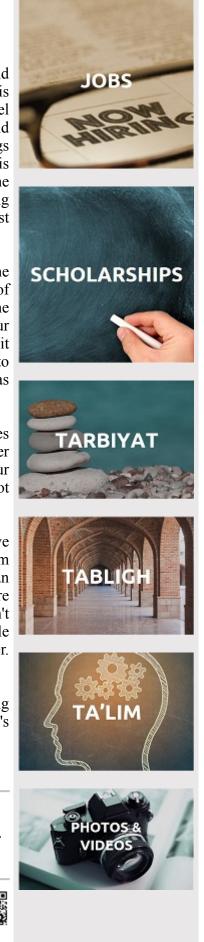
Then, there was another test during Ramadan, when we were just inches away from canceling our annual tradition of having a Guest Iftar Dinner due to lack of funding. This was filling my heart with sadness. One of our Jama'at members, may Allah bless him, pulled us off the ledge and said not to worry about the funding and Inshallah we'll figure it out.

In my opinion this year's Guest Iftar Dinner ended up being the best we've ever had. We had around 100 guests from the local community, from different races, ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds. It was truly an amazing event to experience. After a brief program, many of them were given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the attendees, and I can't describe the joy I felt observing their smiling faces during dinner. People were moving around from table to table, laughing and talking to each other. Many were even taking pictures.

While we may not enjoy it at the time, the good thing about our faith being tested is that it comes out stronger on the other side. Alhamdolillah, that's exactly how I feel from these two experiences.

Send us your stories of brotherhood, Ijtima memories, or any other inspiring experience that we can share with Ansar brothers via this enewsletter.







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