



Ansār Leadership Conference 2010

Held at Baitul Hameed Mosque, Chino, California

Report by Imran Hayee, Qā'id Umumi

By the Grace and Mercy of Almighty Allah, Majlis Ansārullah USA held Ansār Leadership Conference (ALC) 2010 at Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino, California on the weekend of January 23-24, 2010. ALC was attended by members of the national 'Āmila, Nazimeen and Zo`ama or their representatives from 52 (out of 66) Majālis. A total of more than 80 delegates from all over the US attended the conference. Almost Twenty Five volunteers from the local Majlis made sure that the conference ran smoothly.

Program of conference started on Saturday morning and concluded on Sunday with Zuhr and Asr prayers. Most of the delegates for ALC arrived on Friday evening and stayed in the renovated Mosque providing a pleasant view from the balcony, overlooking the beautiful mountains at the outskirts of Los Angeles, California. Saturday's program started with Tahajjud and Fajr prayers followed by breakfast. The opening session of the formal program started with elegant recitation of the Holy Qur'an and its English translation by Munawar Malik Sahib, Za'im, Cleveland Majlis on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 9:00 AM. After the recitation of the Holy Qar'ān, the session continued with a poem recited by Mohammed Daud Munir Sahib, Qā'id Ta'līm, followed by Ansār Pledge and Dua (Silent Prayers) lead by Sadr Majlis, Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa Sahib.

Sadr's Opening Address

The remainder of the opening session contained a brief but concise opening address by Sadr Majlis in which he welcomed the delegates and highlighted the ALC program overview and objectives. He also shared the challenges and opportunities ahead of Majlis Ansārullah USA for the upcoming year. He emphasized that the purpose of ALC is to provide a forum in which we can discuss and understand the challenges which may face and find ways to implement instructions given by Khalifatul-Masih^(aba). He introduced the Officers Handbook which contains not only the key national goals from each department but also provides a detailed plan of action regarding how to achieve these goals in local Majālis. He emphasized that the following major goals are to be achieved by Majlis Ansārullah USA in the year 2010:

- Achieve 80% participation in online reporting by Zo'ama
- Encourage Ansār to offer Friday Prayer regularly
- Increase attendance in general meetings by at least 10% where member's attendance in meetings is below 30%.
- Achieve at least 30% participation of Ansār in educational tests
- Initiate and sustain at least one social service activity in each Majlis
- Increase number of dues-paying Ansār by 10%
- Increase number of Majālis holding Ta'limul Qar'ān classes to 50%
- Contact all Nau Muba'i'in at least six (6) times during the year
- Increase number of participants in Tahrik Jadīd and Waqf Jadīd schemes by at least 5%
- Promote Tahir Scholarship program
- Get email addresses of at least 50% of Ansār

- Visit each Majlis in the region by respective Nazimeen

After sharing the goals with the Zo'ama, Sadr Majlis continued to accentuate the original purpose of creation of Majlis Ansārullah as an auxiliary of Jama'at. He referred to the quotes by Hazrat Musleh Maud (May Allah be pleased with him) emphasizing that Majlis Ansārullah has been created to complement the work of Jama'at and not for creating dissention. He mentioned that Majlis Ansārullah, as an auxiliary, is an independent entity but should work in cooperation with other auxiliaries and Jama'at as a whole at all levels – local, regional and national. After the opening address, Sadr Majlis requested all delegates to introduce themselves. When the introductions completed, there was still time left which provided opportunity for Zo'ama to ask questions to Sadr Majlis and the opening session ended on a lively tone.

Panel Discussions

The rest of the Saturday's program was dedicated for departmental plans and this was accomplished through panel discussions. The panel discussions provided Zo'ama an opportunity to understand the plan of each department and ask questions about the implementation of the departmental plans, in their respective Majālis. There were a total of three panel discussions in which relevant departments were grouped together.

Panel Discussion 1: A journey towards physical, moral, and spiritual development

Moderator: Dr. Khalid Ata

Panel: Qā'id Ta'līm, Qā'id Ta'līmul Qur'ān, Qā'id Tarbiyat, Qā'id Health, and Nasir M. Malik

The session started with the moderator's opening remarks explaining purpose of panel discussion on the subject of physical, moral and spiritual development. This was followed by a brief introduction and opening statements by all panelists providing overview of key goals and departmental responsibilities of their respective departments.

Qā'id Ta'līmul Qur'ān, Syed Fazal Ahmad Sahib, discussed ways to increase learning of the Holy Qur'ān. He emphasized the need to recite the Holy Qur'ān on daily basis and inculcate its love in our younger generation through personal examples. He also informed the audience of various online resources that can be utilized to learn the Holy Qur'ān at no cost to the user. The Qā'id Sahib also invited Ansār to devote at least one week per year as Waqf-e-Arzi and spend that time to teach the Holy Qur'ān to others. Qā'id Tarbiyat, Rafi Malik Sahib, emphasized that every member should make genuine efforts to regularly attend Friday prayers. He encouraged Zo'ama to hold workshops on the topic of "From Father to son" and Moral Training Weeks in their local Majālis. Qā'id Zahant wa Sehat-e-Jismani (Intellect & Physical Health), Shamim Ahmad Malik Sahib, asked Zo'ama to identify key activities for the promotion of intellectual and physical health in their local Majālis and also encouraged Zo'ama to keep track of such activities. Qā'id Ta'līm, Dawood Munir Sahib, stressed on greater participation in the Ta'līm tests. The Qā'id Sahib also drew attention towards essay writing and the need to improve writing skills of individual Ansār members. In his opening statement, National Tarbiyat Secretary, Nasir M. Malik Sahib enlightened the audience that as Ahmadi Muslims we should always strive to improve ourselves in moral and spiritual spheres.

The audience was encouraged to ask questions from the panelists at the end of their opening statements. As a result, many interesting questions were asked which gave Qā'ideen an opportunity to provide further explanations regarding implementation of their departmental plans at local levels. On some occasions Sadr Sahib also graciously offered clarifications to some important issues of general interest. Although questions were still coming in, the session had to be closed in view of time restraints. The moderator thanked the panelists as well as the audience for their time and enthusiastic participation.

Panel Discussion 2: Interacting with the community we live in

Moderator: Naseem Waseem

Panel: Qā'id Tabligh, Qā'id Social Service, Qā'id Publication, and Imam Shamshad A. Nasir

The moderator requested Qā'ideen to give overview of their departmental plans. First, Qā'id Tabligh, Monas Chaudary Sahib reminded that the most important number to track during the current year is number of one-to-one contacts. He also offered clarification regarding what will count as "one-to-one contact". He referred to the explanation given by Respected Amir USA that one-to-one contact means 15-20 minutes of one-to-one conversation with somebody about the fundamental message of Islam and Unity of God. Qā'id Social Services, Habeeb Shafeeq Sahib mentioned about the key goal of initiating at least one social service activity in each Majlis. He emphasized that the nature of the social service could be any depending upon the demographics and resources of the Majlis. Qā'id Publication, Syed Sajid Ahmed Sahib talked about how Publication Department can help in outreach activities by providing copies of the Holy Qar'ān and short pamphlets in many languages for distribution to non-Muslims. He also offered to provide DVDs for the purpose of Public Access Cable Television (PACT) project through which various one hour long programs can be shown to potentially a large number of non-Muslims in many communities around USA.

Many interesting questions concerning the specific Tabligh needs of local Majlis were asked which were answered by the respected panelists. At the end, the moderator requested Missionary, Shamshad A. Nasir Sahib to make the closing statement. Missionary Sahib emphasized in his closing statement that all Tabligh activities should start with prayers because only prayers can bring fruit to our efforts. He also stressed that the Tabligh activities should be coordinated between auxiliaries and Jama'at to achieve maximum benefit.

Panel Discussion 3: Taking care of Tajnid and Māl

Moderator: Muhammed Owusu

Panel: Qā'id Tajnid, Qā'id Tahrīk Jadīd, Qā'id Waqf Jadīd, Qā'id Māl, Former Qā'id Mal, and Sadr

Sadr Majlis chaired the panel discussion. He started the discussion by addressing the importance of Tajnid and indicated that accurate number of Ansār in each Majlis is very crucial and the evaluation of each department is based on these numbers. He specifically mentioned the link between Tajnid department and Finance. He mentioned that preparation of each Majlis' budget should be based on the total number of Ansār.

After Sadr Majlis opening remarks, the moderator asked each Qā'id to address the

question "What is the most important goal that Zo'ama should pay attention to?" Qā'id Tajnid, Munawar Malik Sahib indicated the accuracy of Tajnid in each Majlis is his goal. Regrettably though, most Zo'ama are not reporting accurate number of Ansār in their Majālis. He showed a tracking sheet that the Tajnid department used during 2009. He emphasized repeatedly that Zo'ama should report accurate Tajnid numbers. Former Qā'id Mal, Kalim Rana Sahib then discussed the procedures for preparing income and expense budgets. He indicated that it is important to include all members in the budget and to ensure participation in Chanda payment by all Ansār. The moderator, as Auditor of Majlis, also emphasized the importance of reconciling bank statements for those Majālis that have bank accounts. The Qā'id for Waqf Jadid, spoke about the need to increase Ansār pledges to this blessed scheme and spoke at length about Hazrat Sahib's new requirements regarding the collection of Waqf Jadīd Chanda in the USA. Qā'id Tehrik Jadīd, Bashir Malik Sahib could not come due to his engagements related to Humanity First so Sadr Majlis filled on his behalf and emphasized the whatever has been said about Waqf Jadīd, equally applies to Tehrik Jadīd. After the brief opening statements, many lively questions were asked to which answers were provided by Sadr Majlis and the respective Qā'ideen.

Other Departmental Sessions

The above three panel discussions covered all the departments of Majlis Ansārullah USA except the Umumi (General) and Tarbiyat Nau Mubai'in (Training of New Converts). Each of these departments had separate sessions for the benefit of Zo'ama .

Developing bond with Nau Mubā'i'in (New Converts)

The session was initiated by Qā'id Nau Mubā'i'in, Waseem Ahmed Sahib who had also invited Maulana Naseem Mehdi Sahib, Missionary in charge and Na'ib Amīr Jama'at USA and Abdur Rahim Hubbs Sahib, Mohtamim Training of New Converts, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya USA on stage. Qā'id Nau Mubā'i'in opened the session by reciting Surah Al-Nasr. He pointed out that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has taught us how to create bonds with new converts. He gave examples from the life of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) indicating his love and compassion towards the new converts and how it helped create a special bond. He mentioned his own target of contacting all new convert Ansār, at least six times during the year. He then invited Abdur Rahim Hubbs Sahib to talk about his experiences. Abdur Rahim Hubbs Sahib spoke on the topic of attending to the needs of new converts. He reminded that even minor needs of the new converts should be attended to. He narrated some of his personal experiences with new converts and how he was able to provide financial and job-search assistance, along with spiritual guidance.

Finally, Maulana Naseem Mehdi Sahib shared his moving and educating thoughts. He started by reciting verse 60 of Surah Al-Imran (*'And it is by the great mercy of Allah that thou art kind towards them, and if thou hadst been rough and hard-hearted, they would surely have dispersed from around thee...'*). He pointed out that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) as an embodiment of mercy and compassion for the new converts and that it was this love that created a strong bond between him and the new converts so much so that they left everything for him and his Allah. He narrated various examples from the life the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) of Islam and his followers. He particularly mentioned

how the Ansār of Madina, being inspired by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) made unimaginable personal sacrifices for the sake of helping their new brothers in faith. He said as a community we need to show compassion and special attention to the new members. We need to set high examples of such compassion, same as was shown and taught by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) of Islam and his followers. He also mentioned that Huzur (May Allah be his support) has expressed the importance of bringing new converts to meet him in person so requesting Majlis Ansārullah to make such plans in which new converts can go and meet Huzur (May Allah be his support).

Online Reporting Demonstration

Department of Umumi had started a new online reporting system for Zo'ama's monthly reports. In this session, Qā'id Umumi with the help of Na'ib Sadr Saf Dom, who helped develop the online reporting system, demonstrated the functionality and features of the newly developed online system. After the demonstration, Zo'ama were allowed to ask questions about online reporting system. Both Qā'id Umumi and Na'ib Sadr Saf Dom answered questions illustrating the ease-of-use and simplicity of the new online reporting system. Sadr Majlis also joined during the Q/A session clarifying further on few important points regarding the future enhancements of in the online reporting system.

Miscellaneous Presentations

Throughout the ALC, there were presentations on topics related to Tabligh, Tarbiyat and Social Work. The highlights of these presentations are given below:

Structure of Islahi Committees

National Tarbiyat Secretary, Nasir Malik Sahib shed light on the new structure of Local Islahi Committees (LICs) as directed by Huzur (may Allah be his support). He provided background behind the new structure of local Islahi Committees and talked about the charter of LICs. He shared his thoughts on roles and responsibilities of Zo'ama being members of LIC. After that, he entertained some questions by Zo'ama further clarifying structure and need of LICs.

How to Provide Best Guidance to Today's Youth

Sadr Majlis invited the Qā'id Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya (MKA) of Los Angeles East Majlis to talk about how essential is this for parents to be aware of what their children are doing outside of their homes, especially late at night. Qā'id Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, Saif Rehman Sahib, shared some of his personal experiences being local Qā'id (MKA) illustrating the fact that 'being out at late night' usually means that children are being influenced by bad company. He requested parents to be aware of their children's whereabouts and develop friendlier relationship with them so that they don't get influenced by peer pressure.

Bicycle Project

Nazim Gulf Region, Bashir Shams Sahib, who has been directed by Sadr Majlis to lead the Bicycle Project talked about the project details. He mentioned that this project has been blessed by approval from Huzur (may Allah be his support). He described that Majlis Ansārullah is collecting bikes from Great Lakes, Midwest, and Gulf States Regions. Collected bikes will be stored at temporary storage places in Columbus, Chicago West, Dallas, St. Louis, and Houston. Abu Bakr Ladd (a Nasir from St. Louis Majlis) will collect bikes from those temporary

storage places and deliver them to Houston to be shipped to Africa. He talked about various ways to donate bikes and also shared success stories that how already many bikes have been arranged and the remaining ones have been pledged.

A Number Game

In this session, Maulana Naseem Mehdi Sahib, Missionary in charge and Na'ib Amīr delivered a presentation on the topic of “A Numbers Game”. He started with saying that Non-Ahmadi Muslims accuse us that we are only interested in increasing numbers of new converts for reporting purposes. He clarified that we are not interested in increasing numbers but rather we want to save as many souls as possible out of love and sincerity of mankind. He gave example that how the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) himself so immensely desired a dying Jewish boy to accept Islam – at that time, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was obviously not interested in increasing numbers but rather saving the soul. He then talked about that our obligation is to convey the message with wisdom and goodly exhortation, and not think about the conversion because conversion can only be made possible by Allah Tallah. He talked about various levels of conversion, e.g., he mentioned that the concept of Jihad which Hazrat Masih Maud (peace be on him) promulgated more than hundred years ago, is now being embraced by most of the Muslims around the world. He then explained that this is a sort of conversion i.e., people embracing the same ideas as we believe in. At the end, he shared his successful experiences about going to small towns of Canada as a result of the instructions from Huzur (may Allah be his support). He mentioned how Huzur (may Allah be his support) wants him to achieve similar goals in USA. He shared some good tips about holding interfaith dialogues in small towns to convey the message of peace and unity of God throughout the USA so that those souls can be saved.

Concluding Session

The concluding session started with the award ceremony in which best performing Majālis were recognized based upon their performance throughout the year in both large and small Majālis categories. Alme Inami was also presented based upon overall performance. The award winning Majālis are listed below:

Alme Inami: Dallas Majlis

Large Majalis

First Place: Dallas Majlis – Za'im: Mujahid Mahmood

Second Place: Los Angeles East Majlis – Za'im: Rashid Mian Syed

Third Place: Philadelphia Majlis – Za'im: Syed Fazal Ahmed

Small Majalis

First Place: Houston-Cypress Majlis – Za'im: M. Dawood Munir

Second Place: Austin Majlis – Za'im: Malik Mohammad Altaf

Third Place: Fitchburg – Za'im: Muzaffar Chaudhry

Most Improved Majlis: Indiana Majlis – Za'im: Waseem Ahmad

After the award ceremony, Sadr Majlis invited presidents of the three local Jama'ats (Los Angeles east, Los Angeles West and Los Angeles Inland) to express their thoughts on being host of this year's ALC. Presidents' remarks followed by the concluding address of Sadr Majlis in which he answered many important questions regarding roles and responsibilities of Zo'ama and Ansār. He clarified important rules and regulations regarding mandatory membership in Majlis Ansāruh for all Ahmadi Muslims above forty years of age. He quoted various excerpts from Sabeel-ur-Risahad (a collection of Friday Sermons of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him) to emphasize his point. He requested all Zo'ama to follow the guidelines provided by Qā'ideen about their respective departments, and to timely report any activities taking place in their Majālis. At the end of his concluding remarks, he thanked the volunteers and all delegates and requested Maulana Nasim Mahdi Sahib to lead in the concluding silent prayers.

At the end of this report, it will be only fair to mention that the two host Majālis (Los Angeles East and Los Angeles Inland) under the leadership of their Zo'ama, Syed Rashid Sahib and Imran Jattala sahib, did a wonderful job on all fronts including conference venue, arrangements, transportation, accommodation, refreshments and taking care of needs of all the delegates. May Almighty Allah give them and their teams reward for making the ALC 2010 a memorable experience for all the attendees.



Photo 1: Group photo of participants of Ansar Leadership Conference 2010 held at Baitul Hameed Mosque, Chino, California