

## Ansār Leadership Conference 2012

Bait-ul-Samee Mosque, Houston, Texas

Maqbool A. Tahir, Qā'id Umumi

### *Abbreviations used:*

pbuh	=	peace and blessings of Allāh be on him
saw	=	sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam
ra	=	radiallahu anhu/radiallahu anha
as	=	alaihis salam
aba	=	ayyadahullahu ta'ala binasrihil-'aziz
ALC	=	Ansār Leadership Conference

The 2012 Ansār Leadership Conference (ALC) was held on January 21-22 at Bait-ul-Samee Mosque Houston, Texas. The ALC is an annual gathering for Zu'amā, Nazimeen and National 'Āmila to review Majālis' performance and plans, with specific targets to be achieved during the year. The forum is used to engage in intellectual discussions on ways to become more efficient and productive.

More than 90 delegates from 63 Majālis attended this event. Volunteers from Houston North, Houston South and Cypress - Houston worked hard to make this event successful. Although many members of the local Majālis offered their homes for overnight stay, most of the guests stayed at the Mosque. By the grace of Allāh everything was smoothly executed.

The program started on Saturday morning with the recitation of the Holy Qur'ān by Naseem Mahmood Bajwa, followed by a poem recitation by Perwaiz Aslam Chaudhry. After the Ansār pledge, Sadr Majlis Ansārullāh USA, Wajeeh Bajwa addressed the delegates and briefly highlighted the purpose of this conference and ALC program. The first session concluded with Dua (Silent Prayer) led by Sadr Majlis Ansārullāh.

### Sadr's Opening Address

In his very brief opening address, Sadr Majlis welcomed the delegates and highlighted the ALC program overview and objectives. He also shared the challenges and opportunities facing Majlis Ansārullāh 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 arise and to find ways to implement instructions given by Khalīfatul-Masīh<sup>(aba)</sup>. He also emphasized that as a Nasir we need to inculcate the love of Allāh, the desire to preach Islām and serve mankind, get involved in the moral training of our children and the spirit of protecting the institution of Khilāfat.

He shared the following key goals to be achieved by Majlis Ansārullāh during the year 2012:

- Increase attendance in meetings by at least 10% where members' attendance in meetings is below 30%.
- Maintain 90% participation in online reporting by Zu'amā
- Encourage Ansār to offer prayers at Mosques. Increase number by 5% (where applicable)
- Distribute at least 250,000 'Muslims for Peace' flyers
- Achieve 35% participation of Ansār in educational tests

- Initiate and sustain at least one social service activity in each Majlis; two activities for large Majālis
- Streamline financial processes and track the individual Ansār budget and Chanda payments.
- Train all Majālis to maintain accurate book keeping.
- Increase number of Majālis holding Ta'līmul Qur'ān classes to 70%
- Contact all Nau Muba'i'in at least six (6) times during the year
- Increase participation in Tahrīk Jadīd by 10% and Waqf Jadīd by 5% respectively, compared to last year.
- Make phone calls to 5 to 6 Zu'amā each month to ask them to update their Tajnid.
- Publish all issues of Al-Nahl for 2012 in the same calendar year.
- Have at least 30% of Ansār exercise regularly (at least 3 times a week).
- Visit to each Majlis in the region by respective Nazimeen

After sharing the goals with the Zu'amā, Sadr Majlis continued to emphasize the original purpose of the creation of Majlis Ansārullāh as an auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at. He explained that Majlis Ansārullāh has been created to compliment the work of Jamā'at and not for creating dissention. He mentioned that Majlis Ansārullāh, as an auxiliary, is an independent entity but should work in co-operation with other auxiliaries and with the Jamā'at as a whole at all levels – local, regional and national. He also clarified the process of taking the online Ta'līm exam and encouraged everyone to take the exam online.

After the opening address, Sadr Majlis requested all delegates to introduce themselves. After the introductions, the regular agenda of the ALC commenced. This consisted of four interactive panel discussions, a presentation on completing online reports, an address by Nā'ib Amīr and Missionary-in-Charge, Imam Naseem Mahdī, and the award ceremony combined with the closing session.

Following are the brief highlights of all these events:

**Panel Discussion: Understanding Tajnid, Mal& Audit – An Interactive Session**

Moderator: Khaled A. Ata

Panel: Qā'id Tajnid, Qā'id Māl, Qā'id Tahrīk Jadīd, Qā'id Waqf Jadīd and Auditor

The session started with a brief introduction of the panelists. This was followed by a short PowerPoint presentation that highlighted some everyday finance-related challenges. These had been selected by the panelists to allow more detailed discussions for better understanding of their respective departmental functions. In the initial round, each panelist was asked to briefly present the background and importance of their work and give an outline of their vision/smart goals for the current year.

Qā'id Tajnid explained why up-to-date information of every Nāsir must be provided to Majlis Ansārullāh in the monthly reports. He also explained about various Tajnid evaluation time points during the year, yielding a reward of additional 100 bonus points.

Qā'id Tahrīk Jadīd talked about the blessings of the Scheme and his vision to increase participation by at least 10% this year.

Qā'id Waqf Jadīd underscored the need to reach out to every Nasir for their participation. His smart goal is to increase pledges for Waqf Jadīd by 5% this year.

Qā'id Māl explained in detail about the process of preparing a budget. He shed light on various income and expense related issues.

The Auditor stressed upon the need to maintain a high standard of accountability, transparency, and clean records in all financial transactions.

Finally, with special permission from Sadr Sahib Majlis Ansārullāh, the moderator made some remarks about Nizam-e-Wasiyyat and echoed Hadrat Khalīfatul Masīh Al-Khamis's<sup>(aba)</sup> appeal that at least 50% of all earning Ahmadi members should join this Divinely inspired scheme of outstanding financial sacrifice.

The floor was then opened for questions and answers. Zu'amā were encouraged to ask questions on matters requiring further elaboration. There was an enthusiasm to interact with the respective Qā'ideen, and a wide range of issues were discussed. Most of the questions and clarifications pertained to Māl and Audit departments, and were satisfactorily responded to by the respective panelists. There was still interest for more questions when discussion had to be closed in view of time limitations. Members were, however, advised to contact the respective panelists afterwards to seek answers.

In his concluding remarks the Moderator thanked all panelists for their valuable time and sharing their knowledge and expertise with the audience. The audience was also thanked for their participation and keen interest.

#### Developing Harmony in Married Life

After the Zuhr and Asr prayers, the second session started with a speech by Imam Naseem Mahdi who started with the following verses from the Holy Qur'an:

*"Men are guardians over women because Allāh has made some of them excel others, and because they (men) spend of their wealth. So virtuous women are those who are obedient and guard the secrets of their husbands with Allāh's protection. And as for those on whose part you fear disobedience, admonish them and leave them alone in their beds, and chastise them. Then if they obey you, seek not a way against them. Surely, Allāh is High, Great." (Al-Nisa, Ch: 4, Verse: 35)*

This is the verse which normally is considered to be a central commandment of the Holy Qur'an as far as the husbands' guardianship over wives in regards to governing the household and its affairs. He said he would not delve into the detailed dictionary meanings of the word 'Qawaam', rather, he explained that Qawaam means Guardian, someone who is the manager of the home, the head of the family. Imām Naseem Mahdī went on to ask us (the audience) to imagine if they were on the receiving end, and have a CEO, a director or a manager. Think how we would expect to be treated. Think how we would compare a kind, good, flexible manager to the one who is not considerate. So if Allāh has made us the manager of the household, we should think how to become good managers. Many books are available that describe the ways and methods to follow how to become good managers. If such approaches are successful in the secular world and corporate America, then it is a matter of common sense that we should be able to apply this at home as well.

Imām Naseem Mahdī pointed out that he has seen people change companies/jobs on account of issues with the manager. Allāh does give similar rights to the wives to move and change their household. Harmony can only be created if we avoid using our being *Qawaam* as our right to absolute power within the realm of our household. How is it possible for us to not to learn this lesson about harmony at home?

He went on to remind members that if Allāh has made men the guardian of the family, what kind of model did the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> present to us in this regards? He shared that he had read 60-70 Ahadith about the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> that morning , on how well he treated his family. He would not shout at home. He would never beat anyone. He never looked down upon anybody in his house. The atmosphere at his home was always very comfortable, open and frank. There was never any sense of fear, or apprehension. Every member of his blessed household felt at ease. He would sit down once a day with his wives to talk and share jokes; according to his wives' accounts, this was their best time of the day. Once at the occasion of an 'Īd, Hadrat Ayesha<sup>(ra)</sup> had a slave girl at home and she was singing while everyone was enjoying this. During this, Hadrat Umar<sup>(ra)</sup> came to the house and upon hearing the singing showed his displeasure. At this the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> said that since it was 'Īd day and everyone was enjoying, it should not stop.

Hadrat Ayesha<sup>(ra)</sup> narrated that sometimes there was very little food at home, but the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> would try to make everyone happy. Once, some people wanted to display martial arts at Masjid-e-Nabwi (Prophet's Mosque). The Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> asked her [Hadrat Ayesha<sup>(ra)</sup>] if she wanted to see the event. When Hadrat Ayesha<sup>(ra)</sup> indicated her desire to attend, the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> took her to the site of the event and asked her to stand behind him and enjoy the event. He then went on to tell her that he was going to stand there with her as long as she wanted to stay.

One time Hadrat Ayesha<sup>(ra)</sup> was playing at home with some of her friends with dolls. When the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> came home, the girls stopped playing and ran away. The Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> asked Hadrat Ayesha<sup>(ra)</sup> why they stopped and ran out. She told him that they did so because he had come home. At this the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> said that they did not have to stop playing. He then went outside, found those girls and called them back inside so that they could resume playing. Meanwhile he himself left the house so that they could play freely.

Another important aspect that I would like to mention is that every day, with all his busy life, the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> would do something with his own hands to help his wife at home. We should make a point of following this particular example in our own homes.

Hadrat Ayesha<sup>(ra)</sup> was once travelling with the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> and a large army of his followers. The group made a short stop, but during this stop Hadrat Ayesha<sup>(ra)</sup> lost her necklace. The Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> announced that they would not move from that location until the necklace was found. Seeing the delay of a whole army being caused by the loss of a mere necklace of his daughter, Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>(ra)</sup> was very upset and indicated his displeasure to his daughter. At this, the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> smiled and said: "we will not move until we find the necklace." This is how he played the role of a *Qawaam*. Whenever a mistake was made by anyone, he would always show forgiveness. Wherever some admonishing was needed, he would do that as well.

Imam Naseem Mahdī explained that some Ahmadi Muslim men are fond of quoting the Hadith that if prostration to someone other than Allāh was permitted, then Allāh would have allowed wives to prostrate in front of their husbands. On the basis of this Hadith, a husband is metaphorically called a '*Majazi Khuda*' (metaphorical God). He explained that these husbands should then aspire to become 'like God': *Al-Rahman* (Compassionate), *Al-Rahim* (Merciful), *Wadood* (Affectionate), and *Saboor* (Patient). If husbands cannot inculcate these qualities into their character, they do not have the right to be called '*Majazi Khuda*'.

Imām Naseem Mahdī reminded Ansār members that the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> gave us a 'motto', a motto that should always be in front of us: "The best among you is the one who is the best in dealing with their wives". We should make this the uppermost priority in order to become the best person in the sight of Allāh.

Imām Naseem Mahdī then went on to elucidate further, using the example of the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup>, who revived the beautiful model of the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup> of treating the wives in the best way. His Sahabah<sup>(ra)</sup> (Companions) would say that: "We are governed by the Queen... not only Queen Victoria but Hadrat Amma Jan<sup>(ra)</sup> as well." The Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> gave complete authority to Hadrat Amma Jan<sup>(ra)</sup> in making decisions regarding the household.

Once it was realized that there was a shortage of space in house. Hadrat Amma Jan<sup>(ra)</sup> was consulted and she suggested a solution that the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> agreed to. Some Sahabah<sup>(ra)</sup> saw some technical problems with this solution and mentioned this to the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup>. The Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> responded by saying that "My wife has given me those children about whom Allāh gave glad tidings. So how can I refuse her suggestion?"

Imām Naseem Mahdī's speech concluded with a poignant excerpt from the writings of the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup>: "Throughout my life I raised my voice in front of my wife but only once. After that incident I sought forgiveness of Allāh hundreds of times, and gave *Sadaqa* (Alms). I felt as if I had disobeyed Allāh in this matter and thus I prayed profusely for forgiveness."

He emphasized that this is indeed the model for us to follow and warned members not to misuse the above-quoted verse of the Holy Qur'ān to oppress their wives. We should not wait until our wives are reformed, rather we should reform ourselves. We should become good 'Managers' and those *Qawaam* who are enlightened by the example of the Holy Prophet<sup>(pbuh)</sup>. May Allāh bless us all, Amīn.

### Panel Discussion: How to Conduct a Monthly Meeting

Moderator: Imran Hayee

Panel: Qā'id Ta'lim, Ta'limul Qur'ān, Tarbiyat, Health

The primary objective was to present a very clear idea about how to conduct the monthly meetings, particularly for the newly elected Zu'amā. In addition, the goal was to emphasize objectives of the monthly meeting, which are:

- Strengthen our knowledge (both secular and religious)
- To enhance our physical, moral and spiritual status

The program started with a 3-minute introduction of the panelists by Imran Hayee, who also briefed the audience about the format and objective of the discussion. To make it an interactive session, the audience was invited to ask questions to start the discussion. The rationale behind this approach was that most of the Zu'amā had gone through the "Ansār Administrative Handbook" and would have some or good understanding of their responsibilities as well as of the process to conduct the monthly meeting. Approximately 20 participants came up to the podium to ask questions, get clarifications and offer comments. Most of the questions were related to Ta'lim and Ta'limul Qur'an offices. A sampling of questions/comments are:

- ü How to know the progress of respective Majlis on a monthly basis?
- ü How to check the Ta'lim test process and the online test versus the paper test?
- ü Is it appropriate to conduct the Ta'lim test in a group setting during the monthly meeting?
- ü Telephone Qur'an class to cover monthly syllabus. The Ta'limul Qur'an class via phone should cover the monthly syllabus
- ü How to conducting more than one meeting per month?
- ü How to make the meeting interesting, such as having a prepared agenda versus discussion?
- ü The Health talk is very interesting when questions are welcomed and answered.
- ü All activities including educational improvement on all levels is the essence of Tarbiyat.

The moderator, Imran Hayee, eloquently summed up that all our educational activities including secular, religious Ta'lim and Ta'limul Qur'an activities is circumvented by our efforts on Tarbiyat i.e., moral training. The Qā'id Tarbiyat earnestly requested the Zu'amā to make sure that they, as a Za'im, should make every effort to do what they say - "*he walks the talk.*" Actions speak louder than words.

At the conclusion of the session all the four Qā'ideen took a minute or less, to reinforce what they desire from the Zu'amā and what is described in their respective departmental "Smart Goal". Qā'ideen also asked to be contacted for all assistance and guidance in achieving the goals of Majlis Ansārullah..

#### Demonstration of Online Reporting System:

In this session, Qā'id Umumi gave a brief tutorial on submitting reports online and also explained some common misconceptions regarding how to answer some specific questions in the report. All Zu'amā were requested to file their monthly reports on time (before the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month).

Panel Discussion: How to take care of our obligation towards Tabligh

Moderator: Wajeeh Bajwa

Panel: Qā'id Tabligh, Imam Naseem Mahdi

The purpose of this session was to emphasize the importance of Tabligh and to discuss plans and issues related to Tabligh. Qā'id Tabligh explained that we have to reach out to each and every person living in

this country, our task is huge but we can do it step by step under the banner of Khilāfat. He emphasized the need of everyone's involvement in Tabligh activities, such as organizing interfaith symposiums, book stalls, distribution of flyers and helping the community.

He then opened the floor for questions, many questions were asked and Imam Naseem Mahdi answered all of them in a fitting manner. For example:

Are the Ansār Plans and the Jamā'at Plans for 2012 going to work together? Imam Naseem Mahdi replied: "I do not think that there will be any problem since we support one another. I am sure that priority will be given to those programs that are assigned by Hudur<sup>(aba)</sup>. Jamā'at and Majlis Ansārullāh will complement each other."

During the flyer distribution there were flyers with verses from the Holy Qur'an on them that some people would just throw them on the ground after reading. So should we continue to print these on the flyers that are going to be distributed in future campaigns?

Imam Naseem Mahdi replied: "This issue was discussed in the core team (Media Team and Tabligh Team). Initially the thought was that the photo of the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> should not be put on the flyers. But my approach is that the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> had his picture taken for the sole purpose of Tabligh. So if we are not using it then we are not fulfilling the purpose for which he permitted his picture to be taken. The London office was also contacted to get advice on this matter. We found out that Hudur<sup>(aba)</sup> also wanted the photo of the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> on the flyer. So we should do our part in doing the Tabligh. We cannot stop printing the Holy Qur'an because of the fear that some non-believer will treat it without due respect. Hudur<sup>(aba)</sup> said do the right thing that needs to be done. The majority of the general public is respectful. For example, when the flyers were being distributed among the Hispanic people in Chicago, there was a long queue. People lined up and waited and received these flyers respectfully. So, Allāh will open the door if we do our part correctly."

At the end, the moderator summed up the discussion and emphasized that the delegates should take this message home and share with rest of the membership. He also thanked Imam Naseem Mahdi and Qā'id Tabligh for their valuable contribution.

## Interfaith Symposium

On Saturday evening Majlis Ansārullāh, USA held a very successful Interfaith Symposium to discuss ways in which followers of different religions could live together in harmony. The seminar included presentations by panelists from the Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Muslim religions. After the panel discussion the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions and give comments.

Dr. Sulekh Jain, Chairman of the International School for Jain Studies, explained during his speech that the current time period has seen some major revolutions in science, culture and religion. As a result it is important to change with the times, and think about inter-ethnic and interfaith dialogue.

Dr. Asha Sharma of the Hindu Worship Society pointed out that all religions have the Golden Rule, and all worship a Creator in some form or the other. Therefore we should all be able to live together in this

world like brothers and sisters with the same father. Gurmit Singh Bhatia from the Sikh Center Houston agreed with her. He stated that those who believe that God created everyone should easily be able to exist peacefully with other people.

Rabbi Jonathan Siger of Congregation Jewish Community North and member of the Spring Interfaith Dialogue Council said that although he has seen different faiths co-exist peacefully, he often witnesses people of the same religion fighting with each other because of differences in beliefs. In addition to preaching about tolerance between different religious groups, we should also strive for cordial relationships between the various denominations and sects.

The Christian speaker, Reverend Butch Green of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship explained that Jesus's teachings of peace and love extended to those who did not agree with him, as well as to those who were considered the outcasts of society. Similarly today we can all try to practice those ideals of peace, tolerance and respect when interacting with those who have different beliefs.

The keynote speaker Imam Naseem Mahdi explained the Islamic viewpoint of acceptance of all religions, and the denial of monopoly of salvation to any one group. He removed misconceptions that Islam is an intolerant religion by explaining that in fact it promotes freedom of religion and choice; unfortunately many Muslim countries have forgotten these ideals today. We all need to go back to the basic teachings of our respective religions and try to improve our own behavior towards others.

About 80 guests attended this event and were entertained with dinner at the end of the symposium.

The first day of ALC ended with Maghrib/Isha prayers.

## Second Day of the ALC:

The second day of the ALC started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'ān by Khalil Ahmad.

After the recitation, Qā'id Publications, Qā'id Nau Mubā'i'īn and Qā'id Social Services were given 10 min each to explain their departmental plans and goals for this year.

### Panel Discussion: How to Lead My Majlis (Addressing Miscellaneous Problems at a local Majlis)

Moderator: Khaled A. Ata

Zu'amā Panel: Dallas, Philadelphia, Willingboro, Cypress-Houston

Leading a local Majlis can be a challenge, especially for a Za'im with little or no familiarity with the job. ALC (Ansār Leadership Conference) provides a suitable forum for Zu'amā to enrich themselves with tools needed to do their job effectively and efficiently.

After brief introductions and welcome remarks, the panelists were asked to share their views on various questions/situations commonly faced by Zu'amā in the local Majālis. These can be, for example, how to encourage inactive Ansār to become active, pay their Chanda regularly, or volunteer time for the services of Jamā'at.



Panelists shed light on how to make agenda more interesting by making meetings more interactive. Views on increasing participation in Ta'lim tests and how to infuse confidence in Ansār to become actively involved in Tabligh were shared.

As regards Ithar/Social Services, the discussion focused on identifying new avenues, in addition to 'Soup Kitchen' facilities, etc., to reach out to deserving section of the society.

Motivation plays a vital role both in this and all fields of sacrifice. Āmila members need to be more proactive as they serve as role models in their respective field of service. Local leadership also needs to inspire members to observe a suitable schedule of physical and mental activity for an optimum level of health. The panelists also felt the need for a prompt response from Qā'ideen, Majlis Ansārullāh to various requests from Zu'amā.

After the initial round of discussion with the panelists, the floor was opened to the audience for questions. Zu'amā were particularly encouraged to interact with the panelists for possible solutions to their problems. A number of issues were brought forth by Zu'amā that were satisfactorily responded to by the panelists. With some questions remaining, the discussion had to close due to time constraints. Nevertheless the audience was encouraged to meet with the panelists afterwards for further interaction. In the end the moderator thanked all the panelists for sharing their valuable time and acumen. The audience was thanked for its patience and keenness.

### Concluding Session

The concluding session started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an followed by the annual award ceremony in which the best performing Majālis were recognized based upon their performance throughout the year in small, medium and large Majālis categories. "*Alam-i-Inami*" was also presented based upon overall performance. The Nazimeen were also recognized for their excellent performance and 'Outstanding Nāzim' awards were given to them. The award winning Majālis are listed below:

### Awards:

#### 'Alam-i-Inami:

Dallas Majlis - Za'im: Suhail Kausar

#### Large Majālis:

First Place: Dallas Majlis - Za'im: Suhail Kausar

Second Place: Willingboro Majlis - Za'im: Muhammad Aminuddin

Third Place: LA East and Philadelphia Majālis - Za'im: Rashid Mian Syed

#### Medium Majālis:

First Place: Austin Majlis - Za'im: Malik Mohammad Altaf

Second Place: North Virginia Majlis - Za'im: Chaudhry Fazal Ahmad

Third Place: LA-Inland Majlis - Za'im: Imran Jattala

#### Small Majālis:

First Place: Fitchburg Majlis - Za'im: Muzaffar Chaudhry

Second Place: Houston-Cypress Majlis - Za'im: Iftikhar Ahmad Sheikh  
Third Place: Orlando Majlis - Za'im: Fazalur Rehman Qureshi

Most Improved Majlis:

Willingboro Majlis - Za'im: Muhammad Aminuddin

Outstanding Nazim Award:

- Gulf States Region: Bashiruddin Shams
- Great Lakes Region: Naseem Ahmed
- Virginia Region: Basharat Wadan
- New York Region: Arshad Janjua
- Midwest Region: Abu Bakr Bin Saeed
- Northeast Region: Zafar Iqbal
- Central West Region: Naseer Siddique

After the awards distribution, respected Sadr Majlis started his closing address by expressing his gratitude to Almighty Allāh to be blessed to serve as Sadr for the next two years. In a surprising twist, Sadr Majlis then had a 16- question 'pop-quiz' distributed to all audience members to see how much information members had retained over the last two days of the ALC (the quiz was not graded!). Sadr Majlis then conveyed 'Jazakumallāh' on behalf of all attendees to the three Zu'ama/Presidents of the Houston area. He thanked all workers of the three Houston Majālis who had worked tirelessly before and during the ALC to make it run so smoothly and successfully.

Sadr Majlis reminded everyone of the key responsibilities of Zu'amā, especially completing and submitting monthly reports on time. Zu'amā were also reminded that if they have not submitted their own 'Āmila list, that they should do so when they return home. Sadr Majlis highlighted the use of the agenda/plans available in Ansār Handbook for conducting monthly Ansār meetings. He concluded by reminding all present of our need to serve the Jamā'at; the time has come to serve by spreading the message of the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup>, to provide complete obedience to Khilāfat and to ensure that we recognize that every sermon of Hadur<sup>(aba)</sup> is directed at each and every individual, not as some members mistakenly believe, at everyone else, not themselves.

Respected Nā'ib Amīr and Missionary in charge, Imam Naseem Mehdi, concluded the session and the conference by recounting some beautiful Ahadith on the importance of doing good works. The main Hadith tells us about pious deeds and their effects:

"Three men got trapped in a cave whose opening got blocked so completely that if the rock did not move from its mouth the cave would have become their grave. Recognizing that there was none except Allāh who could save them from the situation, they each decided to narrate one good work they had done purely for the sake and fear of Allāh. As each man gave reference to a righteous deed that they had done only for the sake of Allāh, the boulder moved a little. When the third man had finished his account, the boulder moved sufficiently for them to leave the cave. Imam Naseem Mahdī advised members to think about good deeds that they had done solely for the love and fear of Allāh, and to recall them at times of need - a very timely reminder as contemporary times I constitute a world of great uncertainty."

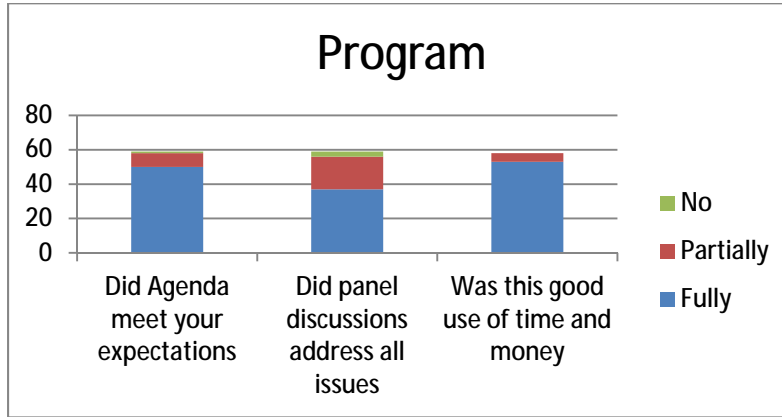
Sadr Majlis led members in the Ansār pledge, after which Imam Naseem Mahdi concluded the final session with silent prayer.

At the end of this report, I would like to mention the wonderful job done by all Houston area Ansār, Khuddām, and Atfāl members, whose selfless dedication helped to make this event a success, *Alhamdulillah*. They did a great job on all fronts, including conference venue, arrangements, transportation, accommodation, refreshments and taking care of needs of all the guests. May Almighty Allāh give them and their families reward for making this ALC a memorable experience for all the attendees, *Amīn*.

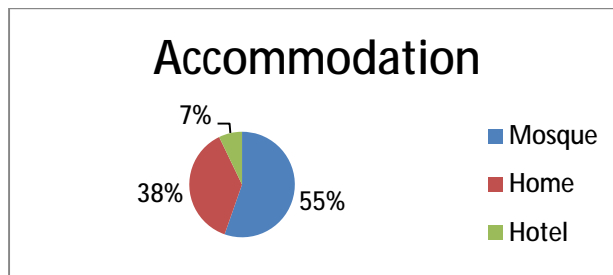
## ALC 2012 Survey Results

On the last day of the ALC a survey was conducted. Here are results of that survey

Program: Total: 59



Accommodation: Total: 56



Logistics: Total: 54

