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# National Ijtimā' 2015: Be the One

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### **Upcoming Events**

**Sun, Mar. 22** - Masīḥ Mau'ūd Day

Fri-Sun, Apr. 24-26 -National Majlis Shūrā

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Do you wish to receive direct communication (Summary of Friday Sermon, Newsletter etc.) from Majlis Anṣārullāh? If yes, submit your email address at http://ansarusa.org/mailinglist/ dada/mail.cgi Dear Anṣār Brothers, As-Salāmu 'Alaikum Wa Raḥmatullāh

Be the one.

I am inviting you to be the guests of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) at the 2015 National Ijtimā' of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA, to be held at Baitur Raḥmān Mosque, Silver Spring, MD on September 18-20.

You have seven months to plan. That is a long time. Long enough for a tree to lose and regain all the leaves, for an athlete to train for a marathon, and for a human to travel to Mars. Start planning now, block your weekend, book your tickets, and pray for another inspiring Ijtimā'.

Here are some upgrades: we have pulled the Ijtimā' dates up, to avoid the cold October days; we will start Majlis Shūrā by 10 A.M. on September 18<sup>th</sup> (Friday) and conclude it the same evening; we have reserved more hotel rooms; and we will start the popular interactive workshops on Friday afternoon, Inshā'allāh.

Since our biggest asset is our brotherhood, it is natural for us to make our biggest upgrade in its strength—both spiritually and numerically. Remember Allāh's promise to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allāh be on him): "Surely *every hour* that follows is better for thee than *the one* that precedes." (The Holy Qur'ān, 96 [Al-Duhā]:5) See how his devotees increased from 313 at Badr to 1000 at Uhad to 3000 at Ahzāb?

The Holy Prophet's devotees in the latter days should demonstrate a similar spirit. Hadrat Muşlih Mau'ūd (may Allāh be pleased with him), in Tafṣīr-i-Kabīr, commented that just as Allāh fulfilled this promise when the Holy Prophet was physically alive, He would also fulfill it for Muslims in whose hearts the Holy Prophet will remain alive in the future, the ones who will follow his path, the ones who will emulate his actions.

Based on this, I pray that may Allāh bless us with 1 1 1 1 brothers at this year's Ijtimā<sup>:</sup>. It's not just a target in a worldly sense, it's a prayer; it's a call. Come. Be the one.

Last year, when Allāh blessed us with 1036 brothers, our belief in the unseen was boosted. This year, promise that you will work hard and pray hard for another amazing Ijtimā', because we are the helpers of Allāh and we have pledged to keep the spirit of the Holy Prophet alive. That is how the promise of "Surely *every hour* that follows is better for thee than *the one* that precedes." will be fulfilled for the Jamā'at of the Promised Messiah.

To me, each one of you will be the one out of one-one-one-one.

Was-Salām,

Faheem Younus Qureshi Serving Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA

**Free Medical Service:** Don't have health insurance? Send us an email at services@ansarusa.org or call us at 716-800-1889 from 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. EST and we may be able to help.

**Job Seekers:** If you are in the market looking for better employment opportunities in the United States, Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA can help you with your search.

Visit our website at ansarusa.org for more information on these services.

### **Brother Rashid Ahmad American Passes Away**

Our dear respected brother Al-Ḥāj Rashid Ahmad American of Milwaukee Majlis passed away on February 7, 2015 at the age of 91, Innā lillāhi wa innā ilaihi rāji'ūn. Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V (may Allāh be his helper) led his funeral Prayer in absentia on Friday, February 13, 2014 at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Brother Rashid Ahmad was born in 1923 in East St. Louis, Illinois. He accepted Aḥmadiyyat in 1947 in Chicago. At the time, Imām Bengali was the missionary in Chicago. There were other converts in Chicago as well who had accepted Aḥmadiyyat through Ḥaḍrat Muftī Muḥammad Ṣādiq (may Allāh be pleased with him). One of his earlier friends, Brother Abid Haneef—who himself is a convert to Aḥmadiyyat—recalls that Brother Rashid Ahmad was one of the most effective members of the community when it came to Tablīgh and was known for his honesty. He was affectionately called "Mr. Tablīgh" by his companions for his unshakable services to the spread of Islām and Aḥmadiyyat.



Hadrat Muslih Mau'ūd (may Allāh be pleased with him) indicated his desire around

1948 for American Aḥmadīs to come to Rabwah, Pakistan, and dedicate their lives to study for the propagation of Islām. Brother Rashid Ahmad leapt at the opportunity and was fortunate to be selected for the honor. Ḥadrat Muṣliḥ Mauʿūd himself welcomed him at the railway station of Rabwah. He stayed at Rabwah for five years and having been trained under the aegis of Ḥadrat Muṣliḥ Mauʿūd, he became the first American missionary of the Jamāʿat. His friend Abid Haneef recalls, "He was our national hero…everyone wanted to be Rashid Ahmad!"

Brother Rashid's journey to Pakistan was nothing short of a miracle. He was arrested in the Middle East on his way to Pakistan and accused of spying! When he finally reached Pakistan, he had no idea where to go, in a completely foreign country with a different language. Yet he persevered and with Allāh's support had the honor of studying and serving by the side of Ḥadrat Muṣliḥ Mauʿūd. During his stay at Rabwah, he was also able to attain good grasp of Urdu and Punjabi languages.

Brother Rashid Ahmad was always actively involved in the Jamāʿatʾs as well as Majlisʾ activities throughout his life. He especially attended the National Ijtimāʿāt of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA till his very senior years. He was very passionate about Tablīgh and served with great zeal. He regularly appeared on the live weekly TV program Islām Live on Milwaukee Public TV for 20 years. To satiate his thirst for Tablīgh, he was actively involved with the local Tablīgh stall till his last days.

Brother Rashid Ahmad had the blessed opportunity to perform Hajj. He served as missionary in Chicago and St. Louis Jamā'ats. He served as president of the Milwaukee Jamā'at for a long period of time. He has also served as Amīr Jamā'at USA. He was the first recipient of the Muftī Muḥammad Ṣādiq Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented by Majlis Khuddāmul-Aḥmadiyya, USA at their annual Qā'idīn Refresher Course (QRC) in 2007.

Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA launched a webpage in his memory that can be viewed at www.ansarusa.org/stories/rashidahmad

### **Resolution on the Demise of Brother Rashid Ahmad American**

Today, on February 10, 2015, the National 'Āmilah of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA submits a condolence resolution on the sad demise of Rashid Ahmad American who has served as the Amīr of the USA Jamā'at.

He accepted Aḥmadiyyat in 1947 in Chicago. With a deep desire to dedicate his life under the blessed guidance of Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mauʿūd (may Allāh be pleased with him) he undertook an arduous journey to Rabwah and stayed there for five years.

His universal response of 'Jī Ḥuḍūr' to every direction of Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd was a reflection of his unconditional obedience to Khilāfat.

He had a deep passion for Tablīgh and regularly appeared on live weekly TV program about Islām on Milwaukee Public TV.

His undiluted enthusiasm in attending Jalsa, Ijtimā', and Jamā'at events could not be deterred by his old age and his radiating presence would not go unnoticed even by members who did not know him well enough.

His last speech at Jalsa Sālāna USA 2014 was a reflection of the purity of his thoughts with resolute devotion to Khilāfat and the Aḥmadiyya Jamā'at.

He was a spiritual icon for many and will therefore be remembered as a sincere, devoted, and compassionate member of the Aḥmadiyya Jamā'at.

May Allāh the Exalted grant him high status in paradise! Āmīn.

We are the members of the National 'Āmilah of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA

### **Brother Hasan Abdullah Passes Away**

Brother Hasan Abdullah of Detroit Majlis passed away on January 30, 2015, Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un.

William Henry Warlick accepted the call of the Messiah delivered from the other side of the world in the 70s. He became Hasan Abdullah and remained devoted to his new faith till his last breath. He remained a key member of the Detroit Jamā'at.

Brother Hasan Abdullah had many qualities and was a devoted Aḥmadī Muslim. He loved the Holy Qur'ān and would recite it regularly. He told one of the Jamā'at members that he recited portions of Chapter Al-Kahaf daily. He was extremely regular in attending Jumu'ah Prayer. He used to call Adhan in a very beautiful way that the Jamā'at members still remember. He would be the first one in the Mosque and would offer Nawāfil (supererogatory Prayer) and recite the Holy Qur'ān before anyone arrived. Once he was ill and admitted to the hospital. He was discharged on Friday. He told his son that he wanted to go to the mosque before going home. Upon his insistence, the son brought him to the mosque. He offered Jumu'ah Prayer and



then went to his home. After the mosque in Detroit was burnt, he offered his house for Jumu'ah Prayers and members of the Jamā'at used to gather at his house for Jumu'ah.

He was a recipient of the Lifelong Service Award of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA. He remained dedicated to the service of Islām and humanity to his last breath. He would always welcome members of the Jamā'at to his home and his excitement would be evident from his broad and warm smile. Not too long ago, when some of the Detroit Jamā'at members had the blessing of visiting and praying with him, he continuously recited Sūrah Fātiḥah in his melodious voice.

According to his wishes, his funeral and burial was held in Muslim tradition and he was buried in the Aḥmadiyya portion of Mt. Hope Cemetery near Detroit on Thursday, February 5, 2015. May Allāh bless him and elevate his status in the hereafter. Āmīn.

Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA launched a webpage in his memory that can be viewed at www.ansarusa.org/stories/hasanabdullah

# **Eight Tax Savers for Parents**

#### Dawood Munir, Houston

The tax season is upon us! Your children may help you qualify for valuable tax benefits. Here are eight tax benefits parents should look out for when filing federal tax return this year:

- 1. *Dependents*—In most cases, you can claim your child as a dependent—even a newborn child. For more details, see Publication 501.
- 2. *Child Tax Credit*—You may be eligible for up to \$1,000 credit for each of your qualifying children under the age of 17. If you get less than the full credit, you may be eligible for the Additional Child Tax Credit. For more details, see the instructions for Schedule 8812 and Publication 972.
- 3. *Child and Dependent Care Credit*—You may be able to claim this credit if you paid someone to take care for qualifying person(s)—including your dependent children under age 13—so you could work or look for work. For more information, see Publication 503.
- 4. *Earned Income Tax Credit*—If you earned less than \$54,427 last year, you could receive this credit. Families with qualifying children may be eligible for up to \$6,143. Use the EITC Assistant tool to find out if you qualify or see Publication 596.
- 5. *Adoption Credit*—You may be able to claim a tax credit for certain expenses you paid to adopt a child. For details, see the instructions for Form 8839.
- 6. *Higher Education Credit*—If you paid for higher education for yourself or an immediate family member, you may qualify for either of two education tax credits—the American Opportunity Credit or the Lifetime Learning Credit. If the American Opportunity Credit is more than the tax you owe, you could be eligible for a refund of up to \$1,000. See Publication 970 for more information.
- 7. *Student Loan Interest*—You may be able to deduct interest you paid on a qualified student loan, even if you do not itemize deductions. For details, see Publication 970.
- 8. *Self-employed Health Insurance Deduction*—If you were self-employed and paid for health insurance, you may be able to deduct premiums you paid to cover your children under age 27, under the Affordable Care Act. See instructions for details.

Forms and publications on these topics are available at www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Helpful IRS YouTube Videos: www.irsvideos.gov Source: www.irs.gov

# Your Progeny Will Be Blessed with Water Canals

### Amir Jat, Dallas

This story was recently related to me by an elderly brother in Vancouver, Canada. This is about my grandfather Muhammad Baksh, but I was not aware of this at all until he told me. My grandfather was a poor man and a companion of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him). Once he was serving the Promised Messiah while Hudur was taking rest. At one point, when the Promised Messiah fell asleep, my grandfather gently slipped some coins under his pillow. It was very small amount—6 *Ānnas*. The Promised Messiah suddenly woke up and realized what my grandfather had done. Hudur enquired why it was done in such a way. My grandfather explained that he had this strong wish to support the mission of the Promised Messiah but he could only find so much money and that he was so embarrassed to offer such a small amount that he decided to place it under the pillow while the Promised Messiah was asleep.

The Promised Messiah was very pleased with the honesty and sincerity of this follower and prayed for him. The Promised Messiah said to him, "Your progeny will be blessed with water canals." To have a water canal meant that one will be a landlord with own canals to water his crops. At that time, this Muhammad Baksh was a poor man and probably could not have even dreamt of owning a farmland. But later-as the Promised Messiah had foretold-Allah blessed him so much that all his five sons became rich landowners and each of them had their own water canals too.

We are all eager to save money in banks and stock markets for the benefit of our progeny. But it is the spending in the way of Allāh and the belief in the unseen that finally yield the bigger returns in terms of Allāh's immense blessings.

# **Request for Prayers**

- Rasheed Ahmad Sabir of Silver Spring Majlis passed away on January 21, 2015 at the age of 79 years, Innā lillāhi wa innā ilaihi rāji'ūn.
- Habib ur Rahman (Sahir) passed away on February 22, 2015, Innā lillāhi wa innā ilaihi rāji'ūn. He was a longtime member of the Detroit Majlis.

May Allāh grant peace to the souls of the deceased and grant patience and steadfastness to their families, Amīn. Ansār are requested to remember the deceased and their families in their prayers.

# Send detail and pictures of your local and regional events and Ansār news via e-mail at newsletter@ansarusa.org.

To access materials from various deparments of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA, archives of Anṣār periodicals, calendar of events, and other useful information and tools, visit ansarusa.org.

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