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 Ijtīmā’ of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA, to be held at Baitur Rāḥmān 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 Ijtīmā’.

Here are some upgrades: we have pulled the Ijtīmā’ dates up, to avoid the cold October days; we will start Majlis Shūrā by 10 A.M. on September 18th (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-Duḥā]:5) See how his devotees increased from 313 at Badr to 1000 at Uḥd to 3000 at Aḥzāb?

The Holy Prophet’s devotees in the latter days should demonstrate a similar spirit. Ḥaḍrat Muslih Mau’ūd (may Allāh be pleased with him), in Tafsīr-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 Ijtīmā’. 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 Ijtīmā’, 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 Jamī’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

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Inside this issue:
Brother Rashid Ahmad American Passes Away 2
Resolution on the Demise of Brother Rashid Ahmad 2
Brother Hasan Abdullah Passes Away 3
Eight Tax Savers for Parents 3
Your Progeny Will Be Blessed with Water Canals 4
Request for Prayers 4

Upcoming Events
Sun, Mar. 22 - Masīḥ Mau’ūd Day
Fri-Sun, Apr. 24-26 - National Majlis Shūrā

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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-Haj Rashid Ahmad American of Milwaukee Majlis passed away on February 7, 2015 at the age of 91. Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un. Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul Masih 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 Ahmadiyyat 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 Ahmadiyyat through Ḥaḍrat Mufti Muḥammad Ṣādiq (may Allāh be pleased with him). One of his earlier friends, Brother Abid Haneef—who himself is a convert to Ahmadiyyat—recalls that Brother Rashid Ahmad was one of the most effective members of the community when it came to Tabligh and was known for his honesty. He was affectionately called “Mr. Tabligh” by his companions for his unshakable services to the spread of Islām and Ahmadiyyat.

Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd (may Allāh be pleased with him) indicated his desire around 1948 for American Āḥmādis 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. Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd himself welcomed him at the railway station of Rabwah. He stayed at Rabwah for five years and having been trained under the aegis of Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd, he became the first American missionary of the Jamā’at. 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 Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd. 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 Jamā’at’s as well as Majlis’ activities throughout his life. He especially attended the National Ijtimā’at of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA till his very senior years. He was very passionate about Tabligh 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 Tabligh, he was actively involved with the local Tabligh stall till his last days.

Brother Rashid Ahmad had the blessed opportunity to perform Ḥajj. 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 Amir Jamā’at USA. He was the first recipient of the Mufti Muḥammad Ṣādiq Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented by Majlis Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya, USA at their annual Qā’idin Refresher Course (QRC) in 2007.

Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA launched a webpage in his memory that can be viewed at [www.ansarusa.org/stories/rashid-ahmad](http://www.ansarusa.org/stories/rashid-ahmad)

**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 Amir of the USA Jamā’at.

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

His universal response of ‘Ji Ḥuḍūr’ to every direction of Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd was a reflection of his unconditional obedience to Khiłāfāt.

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

His undiluted enthusiasm in attending Jalsa, Ijtima’, 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 Khiłāfāt and the Ahmadiyya Jamā’at.

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

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

We are the members of the National ‘Āmilah of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA
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](http://www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs) or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Helpful IRS YouTube Videos: [www.irsvideos.gov](http://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 Ḥuḍūr 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. Ḥuḍūr 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—Allāh 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 raji‘ūn.
- Habib ur Rahman (Sahir) passed away on February 22, 2015, Innā lillāhi wa innā ilaihi raji‘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, Āmīn. Anṣār are requested to remember the deceased and their families in their prayers.

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

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

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