National Ijtima’ Attendance Goal: 1313

Dear Anšār Brothers,
As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum Wa Raḥmatullāh

This humble one invites you to attend the 35th National Ijtima’ of Majlis Anšārullāh, USA to be held on September 23-25, 2016 at Baitur-Rahmān Mosque, Silver Spring, MD. This year, our attendance goal is 1313. In other words, be the 1 out of 1313.

Yes, it is inspired by the 313 Šāhābah (the companions) who valiantly demonstrated their love and loyalty for the Holy Prophet (may Allāh’s peace and blessings be on him) at the battle of Badr. At the time, Ḥadrat Abū Bakr, Ḥadrat ‘Umar, Ḥadrat ‘Uthmān (may Allāh be pleased with them), and the Holy Prophet himself, were all over 40-years old. Taken literally, more than 230 of the 313 Badrī Šāhābah were the Anšār of Medina.

And yes, our attendance goal is also inspired by the 313 Darveshān of Qādiān. Those who demonstrated their

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love and loyalty for their Khalīfah at the time of partition of the Indian subcontinent and stayed behind in Qādiān. They relived the legacy of the Awwalīn (the first ones) in the latter days.

Today, it is our turn to rise up to the call of our Khalīfah. Coming to the Ijtima‘ is no match—absolutely no match—to the sacrifices of our revered Ṣaḥābah. But it is a symbol, a gesture, a longing to spiritually feel connected to those noble souls.

Reaching this goal of 1313 won’t be easy (neither was Badr or Qādiān). It will require all of us to reinvigorate our belief in the unseen. All of us will have to pray that may Allāh sends his angels—like He did 1400 years ago in the sizzling desert of Badr—to help us in our humble efforts.

We are focused on meeting the needs of the guests of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him), Inshā’allah. We are working hard to increase the Prayer areas, make the interactive workshops more relevant, enhance the religious knowledge competition, select a hotel location closer to the mosque, maintain the top notch BBQ, bring in portable bathrooms, and flood you with the loving embraces of our mutual brotherhood. All by the grace and mercy of Allāh the Almighty.

So my brothers, come, be the 1 out of 1313 and help your Majlis set yet another record. By rising up to these symbolic challenges, we demonstrate our belief in the unseen and our will to prepare ourselves and our families for the far greater challenges of self-reformation.

I am sharing this goal with you months before the Ijtima‘ so we can all remember our history in the words of the Holy Qur’ān, “And Allāh had already helped you at Badr when you were weak. So take Allāh for your Protector that you may be grateful.” (The Holy Qur’ān, 3 [Āl ‘Imrān]:124) and make our travel plans to be the 1 out of 1313.

Was-Salām,

Faheem Younus Qureshi
Serving Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA

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Finally, according to the rules of Almighty Allāh, He and His messenger (may peace and blessings of Allāh be on him) will be victorious. But how fortunate would we be if we become a part of this victory. Remember, when Almighty Allāh said that Allāh has penned that He and His messenger will be victorious. So when and where Almighty Allāh, in His view, will need helpers for this work, He according to His promise, will keep on providing Ānṣār to the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) and his successors. It depends on you how big a part of it you become by creating the qualities of Ḥawāris in yourself. Moving forward, if you understand the spirit of ‘Naḥno Ānṣārullāh,’ you will be the recipients of the blessings of Almighty Allāh.

As I said that the religious and spiritual decline started with spread of Christianity. But when the glad tiding was imparted to us by the Promised Messiah, after receiving it from Almighty Allāh, that 300 years will not pass when Āhmadiyyat will be in majority in the world, it was also assured that due to the attachment to the system of Khilāfat Almighty Allāh will keep on showering His blessings. There will Inshā’allāh be no religious decline. Instead, a spiritual progress would be seen.

The progress of the Jamā’at of the Promised Messiah will not be due to getting the worldly kingdoms and decline of religion but because of giving precedence to faith over material considerations. Kings will not be proud of their Kingdoms but they will be the ones who will seek blessings from the Promised Messiah’s clothes. They will adopt his teaching. That time will also arrive when the kings will be helpless but accept Muḥammad’s Messiah. Though many of us will think it to be a wishful thinking or maybe our opponents think it so or think it to be a boastful claim that what kind of slogans are being raised by this small Jamā’at. But when we glance over the history and beginnings of our Jamā’at then looking at the blessings of Almighty Allāh, our faith is strengthened. There is no worry about how it will happen, but it will Inshā’allāh certainly happen.

Every day, by showing seemingly small successes, He strengthens the fact that these small successes, considered small by the world, could not be achieved with our resources and efforts. These victories—considered small by you—according to us and our resources are big achievements, and we are happy with these successes. The world deems these as small successes, but whatever these successes are, as I stated, are not the result of any of our efforts; these are only and only due to Allāh’s blessing. He possesses all power. Whenever He wishes, the victories—that are considered big by the world—He will bring them to our feet, Inshā’allāh. But what is important to us is that every year that passes by should be pointing to the assessment that our true aim is to progress in faith and how far we have achieved it. If we are not pacing forward and we are standing at the same point, then we are Ānṣārullāh only by name.

We need to look at the standards of our prayers, sacrifices, and practical conditions of our morals. We need to look at our efforts that we are applying toward the propagation of faith. I mentioned the new converts in my sermon. A person converted from infidels, rather the whole village consisted of idol worshippers that converted to Āhmadiyyat. Unity of God was so entrenched in his heart that he said that he had no belief in God but now the situation is that unity of God is so strongly rooted in his heart that before he used to think that he could not reach God without the idols or that they would do everything for him but now the unity of God is so firmly set in his heart and his attention is so much focused toward Allāh, and his heart is so purely aligned with God that he is at work in his farm and a voice reminds him that it is time to pray. It tells him to stop working and offer the Prayer. This is the condition of those people that Almighty Allāh, in the form of Anṣārullāh, is bestowing upon the Promised Messiah.

(It to be continued...)
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