

KHITAB



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AHMADIYYA ANJUMAN
ISHAAT - I - ISLAM (LAHORE) FIJI

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CARDINAL FRANCIS ARINZE SENDS EID GREETINGS

"Dear Muslim Friends,

'CHRISTIANS & MUSLIMS - BEYOND TOLERANCE'

You have just completed the month of Ramadan. I take this opportunity of offering you my heartfelt greetings. Throughout the month you have fasted, prayed and shared with those in need what God has given you. The time of fasting is a privileged period for asking pardon for sins committed and seeking to be reconciled with God. For Christians too pardon is important for, according to the Gospel, God will grant pardon to those who repent of their faults if they in turn grant pardon to those who have sinned against them. To receive pardon from God and to grant pardon to one's neighbour necessarily go together.

The year 1995, which is not long over, had been proclaimed by the United Nations the "Year of Tolerance". Throughout the year different events took place, colloquia were organized, seminars were held. Last October, in Istanbul, I myself

took part in one such meeting in which time was set aside for discussion on religious tolerance. But our relations as believers, Christians and Muslims, should go beyond mere tolerance understood as simply putting up with the other. A brother is not just to be tolerated; he is to be loved. For us as Christians and Muslims to reach beyond tolerance to reconciliation and love there is still a long way to go. As we prepare the future we cannot afford to forget the past or neglect the present.

In his address to young Muslims, in Casablanca, 19 August 1985, Pope John Paul II said:

"Christians and Muslims, in general we have badly understood each other, and sometimes, in the past, we have opposed and even exhausted each other in polemics and in wars." We cannot forget the past; we must both own it and go beyond it. The time has come to free our memories of the negative consequences of the past, however painful they may be, and look resolutely towards the future. The one who has given offense must repent and ask for pardon. We need mutual pardon. Without true reconciliation we cannot commit

ourselves together on behalf of our fellow believers and for the good of the whole world. Muslims and Christians can become, in today's world, examples of reconciliation and instruments of peace.

It is not only the weight of the past that has to be taken into account. The grievous conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been falsely interpreted by some as an example of Christian-Muslim confrontation. The war in Southern Sudan, protracted for so many years, has doubtless many causes, but the state of relations between Muslims and Christians can be considered as one of the elements contributing to the conflict. In some countries the conditions in which various religious minorities find themselves can be a source of tension. These sorry situations call for reflection on our part, reflection carried out in God's sight, in order to set them right. Relations between Christians and Muslims are continually on the increase. How do we see our future? As one of confrontation or of mere coexistence?

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Or marked by mutual knowledge and respect and fruitful collaboration? Is this not what God wants of us? But this supposes, as I have said already, mutual forgiveness from the bottom of the heart, true reconciliation and a common commitment to building a better world for future generations. We recognize that such a project is beyond us. We know that we need strength and light from God to guide us. This is why all of us raise our voices to the Almighty and Merciful, imploring Him to come to our aid. He will not despise the sincere and humble prayers of His creatures.

With the expression of my sincere friendship, and with best wishes for Id al-Fitr."

[Cardinal Francis Arinze is the President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue to the Vatican - Editor]

PRAYER FOR FIJI - 1996

The Suva Branch of the Anjuman was once again accorded a prominent role in the Interfaith Search Fiji on the auspicious occasion of "Prayer for Fiji for 1996".

The Anjuman was assigned special responsibility to extend on behalf of Inter-Faith Search invitations to the function to all foreign ambassadors and diplomats in Fiji and the President of Fiji and all Cabinet Ministers and their Permanent Secretaries. The Acting President Ratu Sir Josaia Tavaiaqia and Cabinet Minister Hon Vincent Lobendahn and Mr Jioji Kotobalavu, the Permanent Secretary for Information, were some of those prominent persons noticed amongst the 400-450 strong congregation present at the Roman Catholic Sacred Heart Cathedral in Suva.

The event was a success and was given wide coverage in all forms of the mass media.

A total of 13 different religious organizations participated, each unique in its presentation.

The Anjuman's presentation was based on the Holy Qur'an (Chapter 1, Verses 1-7: Sura Fatiah) read out in Arabic together with the translation in English by the Secretary of the Suva Branch Mr Jaial Ud Dean.

DR SAHU KHAN IS BACK

The Fiji Jamaat re-elected Dr Muhammad Shams-Ud-Dean Sahu Khan, unopposed, its National President for the third term at the Anjuman's Annual General Meeting held at Masjid Noor in Suva on Sunday 10 March.

Others elected to the Board are:

Vice-Presidents	:	Mr Mehboob Raza Dr Muhammad Yusuf Sahu Khan Mr Hafiz Raza
General Secretary	:	Mr Muhammad Ameen Sahu Khan
General Treasurer	:	Mr Abdul Nasim
Assistant General Secretary	:	Mr M. Nazeem-Ud-Dean Sahu Khan
Assistant General Treasurer	:	Mr Muhammad Imran Sahu Khan
Board Members	:	Mr Muhammad Saheeb Hussein Mr Liaquat Ali Mr Abdul Wazid Khan Mr Hafiz Zullah

*This Newsletter
is sponsored
by
Mrs Kariman Raza
Buksh
in memory of
her beloved
husband
MR TAZIM RAZA
BUKSH
25/5/1915
TO
03/5/1978.*

EXAMINATION PASSES

The Fiji Anjuman congratulates the following members on having successfully completed their course of study last year and on having passed their respective examinations:

Fiji Junior Examination

Razia Dean
Altaaf Ali Buksh

Fiji School Leaving Certificate Examination

Farzana Dean
Hemida Raza

Form Seven Examination

Shabina Sahu Khan.

OBITUARY

*"Surely we are Allah's and to
Him we shall return"*

Mrs Mariam Sahu Khan, wife of the late Maulvi Abdul Gani Sahu Khan and daughter of the late Maulvi Haidar Baksh, passed away at her home in Suva on Saturday 10 February at the age of 84 years. She was buried at Vatuwaqa Cemetery on Tuesday 12 February; Janaza namaaz was led by her son, Mr Muhammad Imran Sahu Khan, the Pesh Imam at Masjid Noor. Mrs Sahu Khan's eulogy was delivered by her eldest son, Mr Mohammad Yaseen Sahu Khan of Canada and her youngest son, Mr Muhammad Ameen Sahu Khan of Suva.

*"O soul that art at rest,
Return to thy Lord,
well-pleased, well-pleasing,
So enter among My servants,
And enter My Garden."
(Holy Quran: ch. 89,
Verses 27-30)*

GENERAL SECRETARY MEETS WCC OFFICIALS

The General Secretary of the Anjuman, Muhammad Ameen Sahu Khan, recently met in Suva the following officials of the World Council of Churches to discuss Inter-Faith matters:

- * General Secretary, Rev. Dr Konrad Raiser of West Germany
- * Director of Sharing & Service, Rev. Dr Myra Blyth of England
- * Executive Secretary for the Pacific, Rev. John Doom of Tahiti
- * Executive Secretary for program to combat racism, Rev. Bob Scott of New Zealand
- * Executive Secretary for Church & Ecumenical Services, Rev. Hubert Van Beek of Netherland.

HAFIZ RAZA RE-ELECTED SUVA BRANCH PRESIDENT

The Annual General Meeting of the Anjuman's Suva Branch, held on 14 January, re-elected Mr Hafiz Raza its President for 1996.

Other officers elected are:

Vice-Presidents	:	Mr Nizam-Ud-Dean
	:	Mr Francis Hassan Khan
Secretary	:	Mr Jalal-Ud-Dean
Treasurer	:	Mr Mohammad Imran Sahu Khan
Committee	:	Mrs Malka Shah
	:	Mrs Yasmeen Dean
	:	Dr Muhammad Yusuf Sahu Khan
	:	Mr Muhammad Iraz Sahu Khan
	:	Mr Mohammed Afroz Shah

So Says The Holy Quran

"And thy Lord has decreed that you serve none but Him, and do good to parents. If either or both of them reach old age with thee, say not 'Fie' to them, nor chide them, and speak to them a generous word."

"And lower to them the wing of humanity out of mercy, and say: My Lord, have mercy on them, as they brought me up (when I was) little."

(Ch.17; Verses 23 & 24)

WORLD IN BRIEF

[from our newspapers]

NEW BIBLE USES 'SOAP OPERA LANGUAGE'

Christ not crucified but nailed to the cross

LONDON - Britain's scriptural authority, the Bible Society, has published a new version of the Bible which has quickly been denounced as using "soap opera language".

In a radical overhaul designed to "strip away jargon", Christ is not crucified but "nailed to the cross", some sins are downgraded to "wrongdoings" and Noah's Ark is replaced by a simple boat.

The Contemporary English Version to be published by the Bible Society, the British authority on scripture, also does away with God's "righteousness". Instead, he becomes "really kind".

The translation, originally planned for school children, is aimed at people who cannot, or will not, read.

Some detractors have already denounced its style as "the language of the soap opera".

In the US, where it has already been published, it earned the title "the graceless Bible".

Critics argue that famous passages from the King James version have lost their majesty in the translation.

In place of "Give us this day our daily bread" in the Lord's Prayer is the demand: "Give us our food for today".

The user-friendly style has also meant that words such as "adultery" and "crucify" have been omitted.

In the 10 Commandments, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" becomes "Be faithful in marriage".

Translators have also taken out the word "crucified" from the death of Christ in the gospels, in case readers did not understand what it meant.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" becomes: "I may walk through valleys as dark as death but I won't be afraid."

The Rev. Barclay Newman, the American chief translator, said: "We tried to produce a text for people who are not familiar with biblical jargon.

"We wanted a translation you can read aloud without stumbling, that you can hear without misunderstanding and will enjoy because the style is lucid and lyrical."

Translators worked for 10 years on the new version, seeking advice from the 100 Bible Societies around the world, he said.

A revised version of the New Testament - minus Americanisms - will be published in Britain in March.

[The Fiji Times - 18/1/96]

MUSLIM SHRINE BRINGS SHAME

ASNAF, Yemen, AFP - An ornate Muslim shrine in this tiny Yemeni village is a centuries-old site of pilgrimage for women seeking fertility and is now attracting the interest of archaeologists worldwide, but for locals it is a source of shame.

Many refuse to admit that people still believe in the cult of Abbas, a local monk whose tomb is nestled in a corner of the village's 12th-century mosque.

But the mosque's elderly caretaker, Ahmad, talks of groups of women arriving in the middle of the night to burn incense around the tomb.

"I'm told that they want children," Ahmad said, though he is vague on the details as he is not supposed to talk to women outside of his own family.

He is equally vague on Abbas' history, knowing only that he was one of the first Asnaf villagers to make the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

"He was a wise man," Ahmad said.

However, the chief of Asnaf, Sheikh Abdelkarim Saleh Hussein Qassem, is seeking a more progressive image for the tiny mountain village of around 40 homes, which has no electricity or telephones despite the fact that it is only 30km from the capital, Sanaa.

"Nobody believes in it any more," he said of the cult of Abbas, "Nowadays people know that Allah alone is the giver and taker of life."

His armed deputies, their cheeks bulging with the narcotic herb *qat*, nodded their heads in agreement and refused to talk about Abbas.

It is only in the next village, Jehanna, that Yemenis admit to the local legend.

"Abbas' tomb cures sterile women and gives boys to those who have only had girls," said Beshari Ali, who owns one of the weapons shops for which Jehanna is renowned.

But he is careful to stress that nobody in his own family had resorted to visiting the tomb.

The villagers' reticence is fuelled by the opposition of Islamic fundamentalists to the veneration of the many Muslim "saints" in the region.

"Worshipping saints means recognising other divinities than Allah," said Abdel Qader Quiri, an official of the fundamentalist Al-Islah party.

[The Fiji Times 22/1/96]

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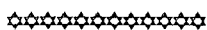
CATHOLIC PRIEST, NUN GET JAILED

NEW DELHI, AFP - An Indian court has sentenced a Roman Catholic priest and a nun to jail for allegedly forcibly converting 94 tribespeople to Christianity.

Chief Judicial Magistrate C.L. Patel in the central state of Madhya Pradesh on January 22 sentenced Father L. Bridget and Sister Vridhi Ekka each to six months' rigorous imprisonment and fined them 500 rupees (\$F20).

Father Bridget, 88, and Sister Ekka, 50, were accused of converting the 94 tribespeople in December 1988 in violation of a local law.

[The Fiji Times 27/1/96]



NAZI GENOCIDE

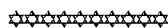
A GERMAN judge yesterday upheld an army decision to sack a non-commissioned army

officer who ridiculed the Nazi genocide of the Jews.

A court statement said the soldier had divided his men up at a class according to religion, saying: "Catholics to the left, Protestants to the right and Jews under the shower".

The gas chambers where the Nazis murdered many of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust were sometimes disguised as showers.

[The Fiji Times 31/1/96]



VIDEOPHONE MARRIAGE

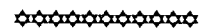
IN Cairo, Moslems in a hurry can now conclude their marriage contracts by videophone.

The videophone, a telephone linking speakers by television, "would allow witnesses to confirm the identity and the agreement of the couple," said Sheikh Attiya Saqr, head of the Fatwa (religious

opinion) division at Al-Azhar.

Islamic marriage requires at least two witnesses when the consent of the couple is recorded by a civil magistrate.

[Fiji Times 7/2/96]



HIGH HEEL SHOES

SAUDI Arabia's top religious leader, Sheikh Abdel Aziz ibn Baaz, yesterday banned high-heel shoes because they made women look taller and could harm their health.

"First, a woman who wears high heels gives the illusion of being taller," Sheikh ibn Baaz, the grand mufti, said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency which declared them "illegal."

"Next, the woman who wears high heels can trip and fall," he said.

"Finally, wearing high heels is harmful to the health, as doctors have shown." [Fiji Times 19/3/96]

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

JERUSALEM - Thousands of perfectly sane and rational people are giving up everything they own to follow a man who heals the sick, walks on water - and swears he's none other than Jesus Christ!

Jacob Katzan, 19, has reportedly performed several miracles mentioned in the Bible, among them, raising the dead and changing water into wine. And his public speaking is so powerful that more than 3,000 responsible people from all over the world have left comfortable homes and quit high-paying jobs to join Katzan as he wanders through the Holy Land, spreading the message that God's Kingdom is at hand.

These kinds of stories about Jesus Christ's return to earth is nothing new, many before Jacob Katzan claimed the same about themselves. The difference here is Jesus Christ returns as Jacob Katzan and as a young man of nineteen years.

It is astonishing that such stories make headlines in the news media, when some time passes it is proven to be false. The sentimental belief that Jesus Christ will return to this state of existence boggles the mind, when there is no authority for such a concept in the Bible or Holy Quran, unless those who advocate such stories want to prove that Jesus Christ is a liar.

Jesus could not return to this earthly world, for he never left this state of existence in the flesh. He said "And no man ascended up to the heaven, but he that came down from heaven". (John.3:13). It is a well known fact that Jesus was born in this world to earthly parents Joseph and Mary, so he never came down from heaven. Jesus Christ further said "Flesh and bones cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

In the Holy Quran we read "O Jesus, I will cause thee to die, and exalt thee in my presence, and clear you of those who disbelieve." Here we are informed by Allah that Jesus died a natural death like all human beings. Therefore, there is no truth that Jesus Christ is in heaven and will return to this plain of existence in a physical body. There is no evidence in the Holy Quran to support the concept that Jesus Christ will make his appearance in this world again. His mission on earth had come to an end in his ministry to the "lost sheep of the House of Israel". The Sunni Muslims are advocating that Jesus Christ will return to this world.

There is no return of Jesus Christ, those who believe in this should beg for forgiveness from Allah and make repentance.

JUMUAH:

What does the Holy Quran say?

CH.62

FRIDAY PRAYER

SECTION 2: Friday Prayer

9) O you who believe, when the call is sounded for prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah and leave off traffic. That is better for you, if you know.

10) But when the prayer is ended, disperse abroad in the land and seek of Allah's grace, and remember Allah much, that you may be successful.

11) And when they see merchandise or sport, they break away to it, and leave thee standing. Say: What is with Allah is better than sport and merchandise. And Allah is the Best of Providers.

9) The word *Jumu'ah* is derived from *jama'a*, he gathered, and *yaum al-Jumu'ah* means the day of Congregation. The time of the *Jumu'ah* is just after noon, and the service, which consists only of two *rak'ats* instead of the four *rak'ats* of the early afternoon prayers, is preceded by a sermon. The words of this verse and those of the following show that ordinary business may be carried on by a Muslim on Friday before or after the *Jumu'ah* prayer. Hence, unlike the Jewish and the Christian Sabbaths, it is not necessarily a day of rest. But attendance at the *Jumu'ah* prayers is obligatory, and as soon as the call to prayer is sounded, every Muslim is bound to leave business of every kind and immediately hasten to the mosque. Every nation has a Sabbath, or a so-called day of Divine service set apart from the ordinary weekdays, but in practice, the whole day is never given to prayer. In fact, a Muslim, who is allowed to do his ordinary work on Friday, gives more time to his prayers than the majority of those who recognize a seventh day as their Sabbath. The idea underlying the Sabbath is, no doubt, a temporary cessation of the material and physical activities, to give

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ
لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا
إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ
خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩﴾
فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا
فِي الْأَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ
وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٠﴾
وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا
انْفَضُّوا إِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوكَ قَائِمًا قُلْ مَا عِنْدَ
اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ مِمَّنْ لَّهْوٍ وَمِنَ التِّجَارَةِ
وَ اللَّهُ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ ﴿١١﴾

place to spiritual exercise and to holding communion with the Divine Being. Islam, on the other hand, requires communion with the Divine Being to be observed throughout the entire week, five times daily. Thus it gives a real chance to its followers for the exercise and development of the spiritual faculties, which in others lie quite dormant. The Islamic division of prayers is much more suited to elevate a man spiritually, affording true spiritual food to the soul than is to be discovered in any other form of worship.

11) Those spoken of here are apparently the hypocrites. The fact that the next chapter deals with the hypocrites corroborates this.

REGIONAL NEWS

From Shaukat A Ali
AAIL Regional Director - South/East Asia and Pacific

Assalaamu Aleikum wa
Rahmatullahe wa Barakatahu.

We sincerely hope and pray that you are all in good health and happiness by the grace of merciful Allah. I take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all those who have sent *Eid Mubarak* cards and letters.

Alhamdulillah, with the constant prayers and support of *Hazrat Ameer-e-Jamaat*, Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib, the Executives and all brothers and sisters from around the world, the *Jamaats* in the Asia and Pacific region have continued to make excellent progress. With *Ramazan Shareef* occurring in the quarter, the news from all over the region have been exhilarating. News from our Branches in this region are provided briefly, in alphabetical order of the countries:

AUSTRALIA

The Sydney *Jamaat* has been in regular contact with me and reports from the General Secretary of the Branch, Mr Mohammed Usman Sahu Khan, confirm that they have been extremely active throughout the period under review. Apart from their regular *Jumah* and *Dars-I-Quran*, *Taraviah* Prayers were held daily during the month of *Ramazan*. They had an excellent attendance at the *Eid-ul-Fitr* Prayers, where the event was graced by the presence of senior members from Fiji, Mr and Mrs Shafi-ud Dean. The Branch has published a Calendar for the first time and launched a quarterly Newsletter in the fourth quarter of 1995. The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on 18 February 1996 and Dr Mohammed Ali Sahu Khan was elected its new President.

The other Office-bearers are: Vice-Presidents: Mr Abdul Khalik Shah and Mr Abdul Jubbar Khan, General Secretary: Mr Mohammed Usman Sahu Khan; Asst. Gen. Secretary: Mr M Wilayat Khan; General Treasurer: Mr Mohammed Haroon; Asst. General Treasurer: Mr Zakir H Sahu Khan and the Board Members for the year are: Mrs Nazreen Shah, Mr Sadr-ud-Dean Sahu Khan, Mrs Wahida Sahu Khan, Mr Zafrullah Sahu Khan, Miss Faria Khan and Mrs Nur Jehan Alam. Among the other VIPs to visit Sydney were the President of Suriname *Jamaat*, our esteemed Brother Mr Rashid Pierkhan, and his good lady and another member from Fiji, *Maulvi* Abdul Aziz, who stopped over on his way back from Bombay.

FIJI

The *Jamaat* is, as usual, very active as you will note from the details in this issue of the *KHITAAB*, however, as many of you have said, I am equally disappointed with their rather hasty decision to cancel the Convention. Some of you had just received the reminders from Fiji *Anjuman* and from me when the decision was made to cancel the Convention. Several of you have mentioned that you were planning to participate. From the information being received, it appears the Convention would have ended up as one of the better attended events. However, in fairness to Fiji *Jamaat*, I must say that although the official invitation was issued in November 1995, they had issued a letter some three months earlier, on 15 August 1995, to inform the branches and many individuals of their intention to hold the Convention in April 1996. I had also mentioned at the last two *Duainya Ijtima* that Fiji *Jamaat* was planning to convene an international

Convention. This was also mentioned in my previous Newsletters as well as in the *Khitaab*. We would have therefore expected prospective participants to give an indication of their intention to participate, which would have given some assurance and encouragement to Fiji *Jamat* to continue with the preparations and necessary arrangements. Anyway, the damage is done and there is little we can do except to ensure that we bring about better discipline in the *Jamaat* and respond to letters within the deadlines set by the originators.

INDIA

Insha Allah, the financial statement will be published in the next issue of the *KHITAAB*. However, as I mentioned earlier, the target of US\$20,000 for 1995 was exceeded during the year. In fact, the financial statement being prepared now will include all funds received and expenses incurred from April 1994, when the India Project was launched, to 31 December 1995. You will be pleasantly surprised to note that as a result of your overwhelming support, the above amount was exceeded by about 50 per cent - *Jazakallahu Khairah*. Thus we are confident that all our currently planned activities will be accomplished in view of your enthusiastic and spontaneous response to my appeal. Our efforts to publish more books will also *Insha Allah* be achieved and a list of books published will be included in a future issue of the Newsletter. Brother Razak Sahib, with whom I have been in regular contact, is making a remarkable recovery as a result of all your prayers. He has requested me to convey his thanks

to all of you who have written to him or to me regarding his illness and offering prayers and we request you to continue to pray for him as he is an invaluable member of our team in India.

Our older branches in India i.e. Bhadarwah, Bombay, Jammu, Sofipurah, Srinagar and Yariपुरah have remained in contact with me and you will be delighted to note that they have continued with their regular programme of activities with greater enthusiasm in recent months. Our new branches in Calcutta, Delhi and Madras have also continued with their programme of activities with dedication and devotion. Several new members have joined the *Jamaat* in the last few months.

INDONESIA

In my last Newsletter (Fourth Quarter 1995), I gave a glimpse of our *Jamaat* in Indonesia with some of its facilities and activities including publication of our literature in *Bahasa* Indonesia. There is a tremendous potential for further expansion of our *Jamaat* there as our members are very dedicated and sincere and I am confident that with a concerted effort, we will be on the way towards further expansion of our membership and activities which will put the *Jamaat* on an even higher profile. During my visit to Jakarta and Yogyakarta in January 1996, I had the pleasure of discussing a number of proposals with our Executives there and *Insha Allah* I plan to make a follow-up visit in June. My consultations included proposals for our officials from the Headquarters (Yogyakarta) and other branches to make regular visits to neighbouring areas where we do not have any branches for *tablighi* work and to distribute our

literature even more widely. In addition, I have suggested that our literature be distributed to neighbouring countries where *Bahasa* Indonesia is spoken and/or understood as in parts of Malaysia bordering Indonesia as well as in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore where there are thousands of Indonesian workers. If we can arrange to get some bookshops in those countries to keep our books, we would be able to gauge the reaction and ultimately decide on the areas where we could establish new centres. We have also exchanged views on the issue of translation of more of our books into *Bahasa* Indonesia. *Insha Allah*, there will be further progress in the coming months as the members are enthusiastic and dedicated and the leaders have the wisdom and foresight to guide the *Jamaat* to greater heights with a little more encouragement and moral support.

I am very pleased to note that some senior Executives of USA *Jamaat*, including its President, Brother Dr Mohammad Ahmad Sahib, accompanied by Sister Samina Sahukhan Sahiba and Dr Noman Ilahi Malik Sahib visited Indonesia from 8 April and were followed by the President of the Suriname *Jamaat*, our esteemed Brother Mr Rashid Pierkhan, and his wife, from 11 April 1996.

NEW ZEALAND

The President of the Auckland Branch, Mr Abid Raza, has been in regular consultation with me and we are pleased to note that the *Jamaat* has been very active recently. There has been a heightened interest in and scope of the members' involvement in the affairs of the Branch in recent months with the arrival in Auckland of the former President of Nadi (Fiji) Branch, Mr Mohammed Feroz Sahu Khan, and his family. The *Jamaat* is

holding *Dars-I-Quran* and *Jumah* Prayers regularly and held *Tarawih* Prayers daily during the month of *Ramadan*. *Eid-ul-Fitr* Prayers was also well attended. Most of these activities are held at the residence of the Branch President.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR BERLIN MOSQUE

As I stated in my last Newsletter, the first major repairs to Berlin Mosque since the damage caused during the Second World War has started recently. The *Anjuman* has declared 1996 as the Year of Berlin Mosque and our appeals for funds globally will be focused on Berlin Mosque this year. Please contribute generously and support this noble project wholeheartedly. Remember the Holy Prophet said "*Whoever builds a mosque, desiring thereby Allah's pleasure, Allah builds for him the like of it in paradise*". (B.8:65) The funds could, if you so wish, be sent through your local branches to the *Imam* at the Berlin Mosque directly.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to once again request you all to pray for the health and long life of *Hazrat Ameer Sahib* as well as for Brother Abdul Razak Sahib and for all the members globally. As *Eid-ul-Azhia* is approaching, we should once again vow to make further sacrifices for the cause of the Movement.

EID MUBARAK, Wassalam

Shaukat A Ali
Regional Director