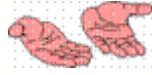




In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

..... **The HOPE Bulletin**

Health, Ongoing Projects, Education



(Vol. 2:3)

September 2007

AAIIL Worldwide Edition

Editor: Akbar Abdullah

CALIFORNIA JAMA'AT PROJECT: APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL ANJUMAN, LAHORE

INTRODUCTION

From August 27, 2007 until October 14, 2007 I will be travelling abroad. We are therefore releasing the September 2007 issue of *The HOPE Bulletin* early, prior to my departure. *Inshaa Allah*, all prayer requests, obituaries and other special editions of *The HOPE Bulletin* will continue to be published promptly when the news is made available to us.

Please continue to send in your articles and news of *Jama'at* activities, whether religious, social or personal. We seek your cooperation in providing us with timely contributions.

Our *Jama'at* is spread out in all the continents of the world. Through *The HOPE Bulletin*, our aim is to bring all the individual *Jama'ats* closer by sharing their news via the Internet. It is also important that we share the activities of Hazrat Ameer and the Center in Lahore, Pakistan with that of our worldwide *Jama'ats* and *vice versa*.

We have gradually introduced new features in the *Bulletin*, particularly the production of special supplements. Since a photograph is worth a thousand words, we have adopted a concept of photo-journalism, whereby we have introduced photographs within the text material instead of grouping them at the end. We hope our attempts at making our publication more reader-friendly have been successful.

We would like to receive your comments on how we can improve this newsletter and we thank you for your past cooperation and support. May Allah bless you all. *Aameen*.

JAMA'AT NEWS

News from Paramaribo, Suriname

Dr. Khaliel and Mary Ghafoerkhan recently attended a seminar and workshop organized by Imdadia Isha'at Islam of Suriname that dealt with the Islamic way of family life. This was the fourth time Imdadia had organized such an event and, as in the past, it was a great success. The Ghafoerkhans are looking forward to participating in more such activities.

We are very sad to learn that Br Nasir (Laal) Ghafoerkhan's business place was totally destroyed by fire. (He is Dr. Khaliel Ghafoerkhan's brother.) It is gratifying to learn, however, that Br Laal, who is a very religious and mentally strong person, has taken the loss in the spirit of *Alhamdulillah*, and that all the family members and other relatives have resolved to build a new store for him to compensate for his loss. *JazakAllah!*

Virtual Mosque report from AAII, UK

A report with photographs of the monthly meeting held on 5 August 2007 at the London Darus Salaam Mission House was posted on the Virtual Mosque site. The main speaker at the meeting was Ms. Habiba Anwar, whose topic was about different sects in Islam. The report can be viewed at <http://www.virtualmosque.co.uk/news12.php>

PRAYER & HEALTH NEWS

Nur Jahan Alam on Dr. Abdul Habib Sahu Khan, Sydney, Australia

Dad was in hospital for some days, but thanks to Allah he has been discharged....We are taking each day as it comes as far as my parent's health is concerned. Allah knows best..."

Mary Ghafoerkhan's mother, Suriname

"My Mom is well by the Grace of Allah..."

Shahid Aziz on Mrs Akhtar Aziz, UK

"Mum is slightly better. She can move about a little with the help of a frame..."

In addition to the above-mentioned brethren, members of our global "Prayer Circle" are requested to continue praying for the full recovery of Begums Nuzhat Saeed (Canada), Sabiha Saeed and Ch. Abdul Karim (Pakistan), and Akela Haroun (UK), Br. Jalal Ud Dean's mother (Fiji), Dr. Muhammad Hami (UK), Malik Saeed Sahib (Pakistan), and also for those not listed here. May Allah (*swt*), with His bountiful mercy and with His graceful blessings, grant *shifa* and speedy recovery to all our ailing brethren. *Aameen*.

As Hazrat Ameer prays for the welfare of the worldwide *Jama'at*, we too must pray for his health and well-being.

Please also pray for me that Allah may grant me health, strength and wisdom to continue this work as *khidmat* to the worldwide *Jama'at*.

FEATURE ARTICLE

A PARABLE OF THE PLEASURES OF THIS WORLD

By Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad

(Translated by Kalamazad Mohammed, BA, Dip. Ed., Editor, *The Message*, and taken from *Malfuzat*, Vol. 7, pp. 23-24.)

The delight of the life of this world is like that of the itch. At first, when you scratch it, it is pleasing, but when you continue to do so it creates a wound from which blood flows and this may deteriorate to such an extent that it gives off a purulent discharge and becomes a running sore, which causes pain and discomfort to the sufferer.

The truth is that this worldly existence is unstable and without real substance. Oftentimes it comes to my mind that if Allah, Most High, should offer a deceased person the opportunity to return to this world, he will certainly ask pardon of his Lord as he declines the suggestion. Provided a person has deep faith in Allah, Most High, he can avoid the difficulties of this world, for his Lord listens to the fervent pleas of His servants.

However, there is one pre-requisite if man is to be successful – he must never get tired of supplicating his Master. If he slackens, not only will he fail but he will entertain evil thoughts of Allah Himself and this will lead to a greater danger – loss of faith in his Creator. For example, if a person is promised that if he digs under a certain place in the ground he will discover a treasure and he digs to a depth of a few feet and then gives up for he discovers no treasure, he will not only resign himself to failure and disappointment but will go so far as to abuse the one who made the promise although it will be his fault and weakness and lack of perseverance for not having dug deep enough.

Similarly, when man makes *du'a* (supplication) for a while and then gets tired he does not attribute his failure to his own laziness and negligence but he begins to harbour unworthy thoughts of Allah, Most High, and this causes him to lose faith and he eventually ends up dying as an atheist.

[Abu Hurairah reported Allah's Messenger as saying: "A servant is granted an answer provided he does not ask for anything sinful or for breaking ties of relationship, and provided he does not demand an answer quickly."

On being asked what demanding an answer quickly meant, Allah's Messenger replied: "It is when he says he has prayed and prayed and does not think he will be answered, so he grows weary in such circumstances and gives up supplication" (Muslim). (*Mishkat*, Robson, Vol. 1, pp. 471-472.)]

Until man has not faced and triumphed over innumerable difficulties and trials in the path of the Almighty he will never be able to obtain a certificate of success. This is why the Holy Qur'an asks: "Do men think that they will be left alone on saying, We believe, and would not be tried?" (29:2).

Those who think that mere belief alone without trials is sufficient should remember that in another place of the Holy Qur'an they are designated as non-believers: "And there are some people who say: We believe in Allah and the Last Day, and they are not believers" (2:8).

The same point is emphasised in another verse of the Holy Qur'an which runs as follows: "The dwellers of the desert say: We believe. Say: You believe not, but say, We submit; and faith has not yet entered into your hearts. And if you obey Allah and His Messenger, He will not diminish aught of your deeds. Surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful" (49:14).

Many people are like these, but to become a true, firm and sincere believer it is necessary to undertake strenuous religious discipline as well as to pass through severe hardships and calamities and emerge with one's faith intact and even stronger.

(*Malfuzat*, Vol. 7, pp. 23-24.)

EDUCATION

This month's lesson is on how to deal with criticism and is reproduced from *A Spiritual Note*, published by IVISEP of Suriname on May 4, 2007.

After reading this article, we will learn how to preserve the unity of the *Jama'at* by acting with humility in the face of criticism. Those of us who follow Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and call ourselves Ahmadis must adhere to his guidance when he instructed, "Even if you are in the right, for the sake of the unity of *Jama'at* humble yourself as if you are wrong."

HOW TO REACT IN THE FACE OF CRITICISM

"When you received it on your tongues and spoke with your mouths that of which you had no knowledge, and you deemed it a trifle, while with Allah it was serious" (Qur'an, 24:15).

Whenever someone rises head and shoulders above his fellow man, he quickly becomes the target for the jabs and jibes of jealous lesser men. Criticism can be very painful, especially when it comes from those who are closest to us. In the long run, however, it does much more harm to the one criticizing than it does to the one being criticized. Furthermore, criticism only destroys us if we allow it to.

If we are being criticized and the criticism is valid, we need to be big enough to accept the criticism and make necessary changes to correct where we have been wrong.

On the other hand, if the criticism is unjust, we need to realize (though easier said than done) that the more secure we become within ourselves, the less others' criticism will bother us. In such cases I like what another has said, "What you think of me is none of my business."

To conclude, a verse from the Qur'an: "And let not their speech grieve thee. Surely might belongs wholly to Allah. He is the Hearer, the Knower" (10:65).

PUBLICATION

Marriage *khutba* by Hazrat Ameer

From time to time members have been requesting copies of the *khutba* that Hazrat Ameer delivered during a wedding in the USA and which was subsequently published. *Alhamdulillah!* This highly acclaimed *khutba* is now available on Central Anjuman's official website at the following link:

<http://aaiil.org/text/books/others/abdulkarimsaeed/khutbanikahmarriagesermon/khutbanikahmarriagesermon.shtml>

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Appreciation from Fauqia Aziz, England

Dear Brother Akbar,
Assalam-o-Alaikum.

JazakAllah as usual, an inspiring read of all your efforts, i.e. tribute paper for our beloved elder, Mian Fazal-e-Ahmed. It was so inspiring to read about his interactions with family, friends, subordinates and the members of the *Jamaat*. I remember them both visiting my mum all the time. They called her Razia Apa and both Tahira Auntie and Uncle came regularly to see her, whether she visited them or not. May Allah *swt* grant him the best abode that we all hope for, and grant his family peace in knowing that he led a very steadfast life which will be a source of comfort for them.

It was very moving to read about your relationship with your brother Khalid. May his soul rest in peace. For you and your family those cherish-able memories will last for ever.

The Milton Keynes event report was also very good.

Thank you for your efforts and may Allah always keep you and your helpers in good health so that you can carry on with your tireless work.

Letter from Manfred Yahya, Berlin, Germany

By the way: Thank you for your information with *The HOPE*. That will be very helpful for me to understand our international *Jamaat* and it has also helped me with information for my manuscript about the "AAIIL in Europe" which I will finish in the next two months, *Inshallah*.

There is one point in my manuscript not clear till today: Is there existing a national *Jamaat* in New Zealand and where is the headquarters? Who can give me this information? In my manuscript about our *Jamaat* in Europe I will also give very short information about our *Jamaats* worldwide.

Thank you so much for your work and may Allah bless you!

Message from Captain Abdus Salam Khan, Los Angeles, California

Dear Akbar Sahib,
Assalam-o-Alaikum.

Thanks for information about *Jama'at* activities.

I do wish if someone at the Center in Lahore can identify all the persons in the 1988 *Jalsa* photo you published in your supplement of Mansyur Basuki. It is a memorable photo and we need to preserve it, along with the identity of the participants.

With best wishes and regards.
Capt. Abdus Salam Khan

LESSON OF THE DAY

In the following story, submitted by Dr. Khaliel and Mary Ghafoerkhan, we will learn that kindness has its own reward and one good turn deserves another.

GLASS OF MILK

One day, a poor boy, who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it very slowly and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said, "Then I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was also strengthened. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many years later the young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once.

He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room.

She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally, she looked and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words: "Paid in full with one glass of milk." (Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You God, that Your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands."

HOPE MEMBER SERVICE

Recipe of the Month – Sweet Potato Patties

Ingredients

Serves 4 to 6

- 3 cups cooked mashed sweet potatoes
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 cups crushed corn flakes

Method of Preparation

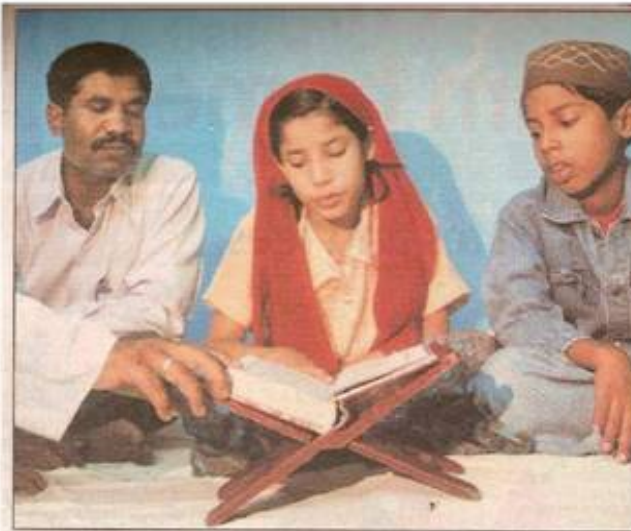
- Combine sweet potatoes, butter, milk, salt, and sugar.
- Form into 6 patties.
- Roll in corn flakes to coat.
- Place on a greased baking sheet and bake at 325° for 25 minutes.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

Hindu Girl wants to memorise Holy Qur'an

What an amazing story. It is indeed amazing to see something like this happening in a country that has been riddled with Hindu fanaticism and hatred against those who profess the Islamic faith. To witness a nine-year-old Hindu girl with her parents' consent desirous of achieving *Hafiza-Qur'an* is indeed no less than a miracle. May Allah bless her and make her successful. *Aameen*.

The article below is by courtesy of Muhammad Ameen Sahu Khan, Sydney, Australia.



MAKING POSSIBLE THE IMPOSSIBLE: A 9-year-old Hindu girl Hemlata reads Koran. She aims to become a 'Hafiz' (one who remembers and can recite the holy book by heart, without a mistake).

Hindu girl wants to memorise Koran

Falzan Ahmad | TNN

Khagaul (Patna): When she goes to Madrasa Madinatul Uloom close to her home, she is blessed by her parents who want her to read and recite the holy Koran.

Dilip Kumar Choudhary and Urmila Devi have a unique desire that their nine-year-old daughter Hemlata memorises the Koran and become a 'hafiz' (one who memorises all the 114 surahs or chapters of the holy book by heart, word by word and can correctly recite the same without looking at the text).

Hemlata's seven-year-old brother Ashish Vidyarthi, too, accompanies her to the madrasa housed in Jama Masjid, Badi Khagaul, and reads Urdu as a prelude to switching over to Arabic like his sister.

"This is something very strange...really unique," said people who gathered in the masjid on late Saturday evening at a function when Hemlata came on the dais to

recite first chapter of the Koran. Choudhary, a railway employee, says: "I had a desire that my children should read Urdu and Arabic. When she was reading Urdu, I thought she should also read the Koran." "I love reading the Koran and I want to memorise it," says Hemlata who is a student of standard IV in Progressive Public High School at Khagaul. Her brother Ashish, who too studies there, is in standard I.

Did any non-Muslim ever memorise the Koran? No, say the Islamic scholars. Hafiz Mohammad Alam Qasmi said there was no restriction on anybody on reading the Koran, but no non-Muslim ever wished to memorise it. He quoted Surah Al-Qamar of the Koran wherein Allah says: "And we have indeed made the Koran easy to understand and remember."

Madrasa founder Abu Bashar said when Hemlata's parents approached him with their request, he too was surprised. But since this is a perspicuous book and, what Muslims believe, Koran is Allah's eternal miracle, the scholars say it is also an eternal miracle that non-Muslims are showing an interest to recite it.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Akbar Abdullah

Editor, *The HOPE Bulletin*

Mailing Address: P.O. Box A2127

211 South Clark Street

Chicago, IL 60690, U.S.A.

E-mail Address: akbar_786us@yahoo.com

Telephone Number: (773) 539-6892

Facsimile Number: (773) 539-9975

