



1908-2008
100 years of Khilafat
A Historical Celebration

27th May 2008 marked 100 years of Khilafat (Successorship) for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community around the world, and 31st May 2008 celebrated this momentous milestone in Sydney, Australia, with a superb banquet.

The Ahmadiyya Mosque in Sydney, NSW, Bait-ul Huda, was adorned with lights and offered a magnificent site as one drove along Richmond Road and immediately, one could easily see that festivities were underway.

Upon arriving at the mosque, the atmosphere was overwhelming. There was an enormous Banquet Marquee set up for dinner later in the evening, and an Exhibition Marquee containing various books, presentations and souvenirs.

The inside of the mosque presented a delightful atmosphere with balloons and banners hanging as far as the eye could see, and the decorations did not only stop there. Men, women and children, were all dressed up lavishly for the occasion creating a sense of glamour in the air.

Along with the festivities and decorations, the overall mood was very emotional; as for many, if not all, who attended, it was a celebration to be experienced once in a lifetime.

Members of the NSW Ahmadiyya Muslim Community attended this event in full force, with a number of Non – Ahmadi guests and dignitaries also honouring us with their presence. Lajna Imaillah (women's Auxiliary) also invited many guests.

The program started on time in the usual manner, and a number of speeches were delivered. A lovely surprise for the audience was the speeches delivered by the young boys. They were very well prepared and focused, and above all their confidence is applauded, as it is not easy for such young children to stand up in front of a large gathering and deliver a speech and that too in such an amazing manner.

After the speeches, a repeat broadcast of the Pledge taken by the Fifth Caliph and current Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Worldwide, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba}, was shown. Most members had already heard and taken this pledge when it was delivered live from London on 27th May 2008, however, silence still swept through the hall as everyone absorbed the intense message once again.

The session was brought to a close with an address delivered by the National Ameer (President) and Missionary In charge, Maulana Mahmood Ahmad, followed by a silent prayer.



Khilafat Centenary Ahmadiyya 1908 -2008

After about an hour break and Namaz (prayer), the second session commenced. This session included the welcome address given by National Ameer (President) followed by various Members of Parliament addressing the gathering. During this session, a fantastic documentary was prepared by MTA (Muslim Television Ahmadiyya) Australia. This presentation was a brief introduction to our community and the history of Khilafat (Successorship).

Following the close of the session, dinner was served in the banquet marquee. Although it was a wintry night, the cold was not felt due to the vast amount of people gathered. The banquet was definitely a feast to remember and everyone, regardless of colour, creed or race, all celebrated as one and were thrilled to be able to take part in this once in a lifetime celebration.

The Ladies and Families Team were out and about in the field taking photographs so be sure to visit the Image Gallery for the photographs taken of this historic celebration.

We also availed the opportunity to interview the guests that attended this event. Mrs. Farhana Ahmedi asked a number of guests about their impressions and experiences of the day.

Our first guest to be interviewed was Ms Margaret Piper, who was invited by the National Ameer (President) and Missionary In charge, Maulana Mahmood Ahmad. When asked about her thoughts on Khilafat Day, she said “I have come here (Masjid Bait-ul Huda) many times, it’s a huge honour, its great to see the community grow into a dignified and strong community...providing a place of safety and security” and she also mentioned that during this event she has learnt quite a bit about Ahmadiyyat specifically about “The inheritance of Khilafat and the History of the Ahmadi community”. To sum up, the highlight of the day for Ms Piper was the ability “to see old acquaintances and to be part of a once in 100 year event”.

Another guest, Mrs. Louise Markus, Minister for Parliament, who was also invited by the National Ameer (President), was also interviewed. She said, “I’m always impressed by the values of the day...It was an opportunity to learn more about Khilafat and all that it means. It really paints a picture of what Ahmadi’s are about”. She also said she had learnt “about the rich history. I learnt about this mosque being built.... Also Khilafat is actually found, when one passes away, fairly quickly, to complete the work of the previous Khalifa. That shows leadership. And I think that is very important which none of us realise”. When asked about the highlight of the day, Mrs. Markus replied, “the food was good. The serving of fellow human’s faith and loving are one. They go hand in hand. Love is a word that isn’t used enough in our secular community. Seeing it expressed here gives hope for the future.”

A member of Lajna Imaillah (Women’s Auxiliary), Mrs. Amatul Malik Najm, also invited a guest; Ms. Rosina Widiner, who had the following to say about her experience of the day, “this is my first time here; your religion is not strange at all. The speeches were very interesting. I grew up between Muslims, when I was a child 60 years ago in Germany...The speeches were like what’s in the bible...Ahmadiyyat is no different from any other religion. We all come from different directions and we meet in God’s Place, as long as you go on the right path”.



Khilafat Centenary Ahmadiyya 1908 -2008

A number of other guests had the following to say about their experiences and thoughts of the day.

“I was quite amazed by the number of people. It was a great feeling and great atmosphere. It was good...The community is very helpful and caring, and they do a lot of work for charity”... Mrs. Shenaaz Ahmad

“It was good...The food and the speeches...I didn't realise the community was that big”... Sara Abad

The Ladies and Families Website Team would like to extend a warm thank you to all the guests that were interviewed; we appreciate your time and kind words. Thank you for joining us in celebrating this momentous occasion and we look forward to seeing you again in the near future.

For this event, our team also went behind the scenes with Mrs. Rafia Ahmedi asking a number of duty holders about their responsibilities and thoughts for this historic celebration.

The first duty holder to be interviewed was Mrs. Mehwish Choudhry, Head of Decorations (Ladies). Along with her team of 11, her duties involved decorating, managing and coordinating the Event Hall and also attending to the various guests that were present in the Ladies area. When asked about her preparations for this event she talked about how she worked with the young girls of the community in preparing a collage consisting of their messages for Khilafat Celebrations. Mrs. Choudhry said we are all “lucky to see this moment, therefore treasure it!” For her the highlight of the day was entertaining the guests.

Mrs. Razia Yunus, Head of Ziafat (food) for the Women's Auxiliary, was the next duty holder to be interviewed. Her team consisted of eight members, and her responsibilities involved serving the guests and ensuring food arrived on time and dishes were always full. She requested all members continue in their prayers for the Jamaat and congratulated everyone on the 100th Anniversary of Khilafat.

The final duty holder to be interviewed was the Head of MTA (Ladies), Mrs. Shahnaz Shah. With her team of six, her responsibilities included making sure all audio and visuals for the day ran smoothly. To prepare for this event, she trained her team on using the necessary equipment. For her, the highlight of the day was that “everything went smoothly, with no glitches”. Her message to Jamaat members was to “enjoy the moment, we are very lucky...congratulations to everyone”.

Overall, celebrating this momentous milestone, 100 years of Khilafat (Successorship) was a brilliant experience. The energy and level of patience shown by every single member of the community was greatly appreciated. Not only did they attend this occasion with humbleness but also showed all those present, the true meaning of the motto of Ahmadiyyat, Love for All, Hatred for None.

May God shower his unlimited blessings on Jamaat Ahmadiyya and its members worldwide and may we all continue to benefit from the blessing of Khilafat (Successorship) as much as we can.



Khilafat Centenary Ahmadiyya 1908 -2008

Reported by: Ayesha Rashid Khan, Farhana Ahmedi & Rafia Ahmedi
News Team – Ladies & Families

Written by: Embreen Khan
Editor In-Charge – Ladies & Families

