

**HUZOOR'S TOUR OF GERMANY 2017**

**AUGUST 2017**

**A Personal Account**

**Part 1**

***By Abid Khan***

## **Introduction**

On Saturday, 19 August 2017, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) departed from London for a 10-day tour to Germany, during which he would grace the Germany Jalsa with his presence.

Apart from Khala Saboochi (*Huzoor's respected wife*), there were 17 members of Qafila who travelled with Huzoor from London that day.

There were six security staff – Muhammad Ahmad, Nasir Saeed, Sakhawat Bajwa, Mahmood Khan, Abdul Qadous Khawaja and Mohsin Awan.

The office staff comprised Munir Ahmed Javed (*Private Secretary*), Abdul Majid Tahir (*Additional Wakil-ul-Tabshir*), Hamad Mobeen (*PS Office*) and me travelling on behalf of the central *Press & Media Office*.

Graciously, Huzoor permitted three students of *Jamia Ahmadiyya* to accompany him on this tour. These were Masshud Khan from UK Jamia and Arsalan Warraich and Farrukh Rehman Tahir from Canada Jamia.

Nadeem Amini, Nasir Amini, Dr. Momin Jadran and Abdul Rehman were also part of Huzoor's Qafila. They had each volunteered to drive their personal cars as Qafila cars and Huzoor had graciously accepted their request.

## **Departure from Masjid Fazl**

I arrived at the Fazl Mosque at 9.15am and gave in my luggage. I found out I would be sitting in Nadeem Amini's car, along with Sakhawat Bajwa sahib and Khawaja Qudoos sahib. I was happy to have this news, as on previous

occasions when we had sat together we had enjoyed each other's company and the long car journeys seemed to go by much quicker. *Alhamdolillah* the same proved true on this tour.

At 10.10am, Huzoor came down from his residence and led a silent prayer at Masjid Fazl before departing, as hundreds of Ahmadis waved him off.

### **An emotional text**

During the journey, Muhammad Ahmad sahib (Ahmad bhai) had the privilege of sitting in the front passenger seat of Huzoor's car.

Over the past few years, Ahmad bhai had suffered with quite severe ill health and one of the consequences was that earlier in the year he had major surgery, which resulted in the loss of his natural voice.

With the *Grace of Allah*, he can still speak but his voice is different to how it previously was and he cannot speak as loudly as he once did. Certainly, Ahmad bhai has borne these challenges with fortitude and patience.

As we travelled to Folkestone, where the Qafila would take the *Eurotunnel* to cross into France, I received a text message from Ahmad bhai that affected me a great deal.

He wrote that the coming trip was extremely emotional for him personally because since he had lost his voice he never imagined that Huzoor would invite him to sit in his car on duty for a long journey ever again. Yet, as soon as he was well enough, Huzoor had called him.

Ahmad bhai said:

***“It is purely Allah’s Grace and the immense love of Huzoor that he has given me this opportunity.”***

Ahmad bhai is not one to reveal his feelings often and for this reason, his message made me even more emotional. His words illustrated his love for Khilafat and even more so the continued love of *Khalifa-Waqt* for those who are serving the Jamaat.

### **Need for the Promised Messiah (as)**

The Qafila drove straight to Folkestone, where we arrived at midday, to take the *Eurotunnel*. Before boarding the train, Huzoor went inside the service station for a few minutes and called me towards him, as he stood in the services lobby area.

Huzoor mentioned a video that had been circulating on *Whatsapp* of a lady offering *Namaz* wearing an extremely revealing swimsuit. The video was accompanied by a comment of a non-Ahmadi Maulvi that it was wrong of her to offer her prayers whilst the sun was at its zenith.

Commenting on this video, Huzoor said:

***“This is a reflection of why there is a need for the Imam Mahdi to guide the Muslims, whereby the so-called Muslim clerics make mountains out of small details and ignore the real issues. For instance, they do not care***

***that a woman is offering her prayers almost naked, their only concern is the position of the sun!"***

### **Nadeem's good idea**

After returning to the cars, it soon became apparent that there would be a delay in boarding the *Eurotunnel* as the queues were extremely long due to holiday traffic. Originally, the Qafila was booked to cross the Channel on the 12.50pm train but due to the rush we were informed that we would have to wait until 1.20pm.

Given the delay, Nadeem Amini, who was driving our car, quickly ran to *Burger King* and brought some fast food. He thought that perhaps Huzoor may be hungry.

Upon presenting the food Huzoor took a fish-burger and a chicken burger, as well as some fries and iced tea.

After a few minutes, Huzoor returned the chicken burger and took another fish burger. We were all happy that it appeared Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*) were enjoying the food.

I have written before about the simplicity of Huzoor and his family and this was another example.

There was no sense of formality, no expensive plates or cutlery and no need for any lavish food, rather Huzoor enjoyed a simple burger and fries in the normal packaging whilst sitting in his car.

Having come up with the idea of getting the *Burger King*, Nadeem was particularly happy. He came back to our car overjoyed.

Nadeem said:

***“Huzoor is so humble that he would never ask for anything himself. Yet he must have been hungry and it is a great honour for me that he took this small thing that I presented.”***

Nadeem generously purchased several more burgers, which were shared by other members of the Qafila. I did not feel like a burger myself and so I took some nuts that were packed in our car. The nuts were ‘*Wasabi-coated*’ and, as anyone who has tried *Wasabi* knows, it is an extremely hot Japanese horseradish and can easily burn a person’s mouth. I like *Wasabi* and knew what it tasted like and so I really enjoyed the nuts.

Upon seeing me enjoy the nuts, Sakhawat Bajwa sahib, sitting next to me, decided to try some for himself. Before I could warn him about the *Wasabi*, he had thrown a handful in his mouth and within a second he spat them out and started to go red!

Sakhawat sahib is a calm and mild-mannered person and so did not scream or shout but simply said:

***“Abid sahib you have fed me quite a spicy nut there!”***

Thankfully, there were still some of the Burger King left and so he ate that to remove the *Wasabi* taste!

### **A short-term benefit**

We arrived in Calais at 3pm local time, where members of the Germany Jamaat, led by Amir Sahib Germany, were waiting to receive Huzoor.

Moments later, I was pleased to see a text message appear on my phone informing that I would not be subject to any roaming charges on my mobile phone because the European Union was now 'roaming free'.

The message was bittersweet though, as I thought that we UK citizens would enjoy this privilege for a year or two but then once the UK officially left the EU, probably we would have to start paying roaming charges again!

### **A stop in Bruges**

At 4.10pm the Qafila stopped at a hotel in Bruges for Namaz and lunch. We were served grilled salmon, roast potatoes and a vegetable called artichoke. I was eating the latter item for the first time and it had a bitter taste. I was minded to leave it but someone mentioned that artichokes were very good for a person's health and so I persevered.

Whilst the first three Qafila cars were able to take the *Eurotunnel* train at 1.20pm, the fourth Qafila car, which included the Jamia students, was delayed for almost an hour due to overbooking.

After we crossed into France, Huzoor enquired on a number of occasions if those travelling in the fourth car were ok and sent a message to the driver that he should not drive fast but must drive safely.

Later, they did manage to catch up with the rest of the Qafila, whilst we were still at the hotel. Upon seeing the Jamia students, Huzoor asked if they had eaten and only after they had confirmed that they had, did Huzoor return to his car for the rest of the journey to Frankfurt. If they had said that they had not eaten, I am sure Huzoor would have waited.

In fact, a few minutes earlier, Huzoor had come out of his room ready to depart but had been informed that some people were still having their lunch and so he returned to his room until they had completed their meal.

Such occasions illustrate the love and care that Huzoor shows to those who travel with him. Where Huzoor does not like any extravagance in food or in any other matter, he always pays close attention to make sure that the basic needs of those who travel with him are fulfilled.

Just as the Qafila was about to depart, Huzoor noticed that Amir Sahib Germany was engaged in conversation with Mahmood Khan Sahib, Huzoor's security guard.

Upon this, Huzoor turned to Amir Sahib Germany and said:

***“Amir Sahib, are you trying to persuade Mahmood Khan to go cycling with you again?”***

Both Amir Sahib and Mahmood Khan Sahib laughed but I think their laughter was tinged with embarrassment, as Huzoor's comment referred to a previous tour in which Amir Sahib took Mahmood Khan Sahib out cycling and it resulted in Khan Sahib being hospitalized for the best part of a month!



## **A Prince of Peace**

The long journey to Baitus Sabuh continued into the evening and after a further couple of hours of driving the Qafila stopped for a few minutes at a service station so that those who needed to, could use the bathroom.

During the stop, Huzoor stood near the entrance of the service station and remained engaged in conversation with Amir Sahib Germany for some time. Huzoor was wearing a dark-coloured *achkan* coat and a white Afghani *topi* (cap) and looked extremely graceful.

As Huzoor talked with Amir Sahib, some members of the general public looked in Huzoor's direction and one group of German friends approached our Jamaat members to find out who Huzoor was and where he was from.

One of the Germans said:

***"Is he (Huzoor) a Prince? He looks like a Prince!"***

Upon this, the local Ahmadis explained who Huzoor was and his position as Khalifatul Masih and how his mission was to spread peace in the world.

## **A delayed arrival**

Thereafter, the journey to Baitus Sabuh continued. A few minutes after 10pm, when it seemed we were about to finally arrive, as we were within a mile of the Mosque, suddenly the Qafila cars were diverted due to a car

accident. The diversion was long and as a result, we were delayed by twenty minutes.

Given how late it was, and how long the journey had been, I found the last-minute diversion a source of frustration. However just as I was thinking this, I felt a sudden sense of embarrassment and regret.

The reason was that Ahmad bhai sent a query on the *walkie-talkie* radio asking for an urgent update about whether any Ahmadiis had been involved in the car accident that had caused the diversion and, if so, whether they were injured.

Invariably, when Ahmad bhai asks such questions on the *walkie-talkie* and asks for a quick update it is because Huzoor has himself asked for a report. Hearing this message, I felt very ashamed that whilst I was feeling irritated that the arrival had been delayed for a few minutes, beloved Huzoor was worried about the well-being of the members of the Jamaat.

As soon as I heard this, I sat back and felt instantly regretful at my own thoughts, whilst contemplating how Huzoor was constantly worried for Ahmadiis. Thankfully, a report was received a few moments later that no Ahmadi was involved in the accident.

### **Arrival at Baitus Sabuh**

With the *Grace of Allah*, Huzoor arrived at Baitus Sabuh safely at 10.25pm where he was greeted by more than a thousand Ahmadi men, women and children.

It had been a long day but as Huzoor emerged from his car he did not show any signs of tiredness and smiled lovingly towards the Ahmadis who had come to receive him.



Thereafter, *Maghreb* and *Isha* were offered at 11pm, followed by a very quick dinner, as most of us just wished to go and get some rest.

For the past few trips to Germany, I had been staying in the same room, but this time I was directed to a different room in the same building. After some quick unpacking, I went to bed and looked forward to what I was sure would, *Insha'Allah*, prove to be very blessed days in Germany.

### **Emotions of Ahmadis**

The following morning, Huzoor's Jamaat duties started immediately, as he held a session of family Mulaqats. A second session of family Mulaqats was also held in the evening.

During these periods, I met some of the people who had the opportunity to meet Huzoor, many of whom were meeting Khalifatul Masih for the very first time. Understandably, they were very emotional and joyous.

Quite a number had lived in very difficult conditions in Pakistan and been subject to persecution, and given their past experiences, the joy and relief on their faces at having passed through those tribulations and to be rewarded with the opportunity to meet Huzoor was clear to see.

One person to meet Huzoor for the very first time was *Razzaq Ahmad Bajwa* (52) who come to Germany recently from Pakistan.

Speaking about his previous life in Pakistan, Razzaq sahib said:

***“When I lived in Pakistan, me and my family were subject to a great deal of persecution and hostility. In fact, two of my cousins and a nephew were martyred in our village in the past few years. Most Ahmadis who have lived outside of Pakistan for a long time do not realise the hardships faced by the Ahmadis there every single day. Here in Germany, you cannot imagine how it feels to be able to openly offer Salat and to know that I can pray behind my Khalifa”***

Reflecting upon his Mulaqat moments earlier, Razzaq sahib said:

***“I cannot control my tears because today I had the opportunity to meet my beloved Khalifa for the very first time in my life. This is the best day of my life and I consider it a reward for the persecution that our family faced.”***

That morning, Huzoor also met with a young Ahmadi family, *Junaid Bukhari (28)* and his wife *Anam Maqsood*. They were both originally from Pakistan.

Junaid told me that he had converted to Ahmadiyyat in 2004, when he was a teenager, along with his mother. However, the rest of their family remained non-Ahmadi.

Junaid sahib said:

***“I was 15 when I accepted Ahmadiyyat after growing up as a Sunni Muslim. I used to play cricket with some Ahmadi boys and they would tell me about their beliefs and it had a huge effect on me. The difference between Ahmadiyyat and the so-called Islam I was practicing before is like the difference between heaven and earth. Perhaps the biggest difference is that Ahmadis actually practice what they preach.”***

Junaid sahib continued:

***“After accepting Ahmadiyyat, my relatives were extremely angry and most of them cut off relations with me and my mother. After some time, they contacted us again but we are no longer as close as we used to be. However, it does not matter because I have found true Islam and it has given me a direction in my life and has shown me what my faith really is.”***

His wife, Anam sahiba, told me about meeting Huzoor for the very first time.

Anam sahiba said:

***“When I entered Huzoor’s office and saw his face in real life for the first time, I was left completely stunned and could not say anything. However, all I wanted was his prayers and I have them now. I never had any desire to move away from Pakistan and the only thing that attracted me about living abroad was that perhaps I could meet Huzoor one day and today is that day, Alhamdolillah.”***

Another person to meet Huzoor was *Naveed Ahmad Shazad (30)* who said:

***“When I met Huzoor I felt my entire body shake and when I touched Huzoor’s hand I felt like I had been blessed with a new life. It was a brief one-minute Mulaqat but its blessings will last a lifetime. The love of our Khalifa is incomparable. When I was in Pakistan, I used to write to Huzoor and request his prayers as there was a lot of persecution in our village. Despite being so busy, Huzoor would write back and sign the letter with his own hand and would advise us to increase in Istighfar. It is a result of Huzoor’s prayers that today I am living safely here in Germany.”***

Another family, who met Huzoor for the very first time were *Asif Ahmad (40)* and his wife *Mubashara Naseer*.

They both told me that they had faced a great deal of persecution in Pakistan and that one of their Ahmadi relatives had been martyred some years ago and non-Ahmadis had routinely dug out the graves of their deceased Ahmadi

relatives. Yet, such trials had never weakened their faith but had caused for it to increase.

Mubashara sahiba said:

***“In return for all the difficulties we have faced in Pakistan, today Allah has given us the best reward. I saw today that Huzoor is so loving, he is constantly smiling and the noor (radiance) that emanates from him is indescribable.”***

Very emotionally, Mubashara sahiba continued:

***“To all the people who persecute us, I say that they can kill us, they can take out our graves, they can stop our children from going to school but they can never cut our link with Khilafat! And that is the only thing that we need and is our means of life.”***

As tears rolled down her face, I felt emotional thinking of the cruel treatment of our Ahmadi brothers and sisters in Pakistan.

The hate and vilification they are subjected to is something that those of us brought up in other parts of the world can never fully appreciate.

As they told me about the bodies of their relatives being exhumed, I tried to imagine how it would feel if someone tried to do that to the graves of my parents or loved ones. Just thinking about it was sickening and devastating, and yet these things are really happening to Ahmadis in Pakistan.

I was also emotional to hear the way Mubashara sahiba said that the opponents could continue to levy such cruelties and inhumane treatment yet they would never be successful in breaking the bond of love between Khalifa-Waqt and Ahmadis.

### **Grains of sand in Russia**

During the morning, I also met *Jameel Ahmad Tabassum (30)*, a young Missionary who had qualified from Jamia Ahmadiyya Rabwah in 2009 and was now posted in the Russian city of *Ufa*, which lies more than 1300km to the east of Moscow.

Jameel sahib told me he was originally from Sindh Province in Pakistan where his family had faced persecution due to their faith.

Jameel sahib said:

***“Some years ago, my father and brother were violently attacked because we were Ahmadi but our family did not take any action and remained silent. However, later the same group started cursing the Promised Messiah (as) and my father could not tolerate it and so he firmly told them to refrain from cursing or speaking ill of the Promised Messiah (as). Even though they were the instigators, the opponents went to the police and false charges were filed against my father and he was taken to jail where he remained for a number of weeks. However, this is not a unique case because this is very normal in Pakistan. My first posting was in Sheikhpura and the situation was the same there as well.”***



I asked Jameel sahib about his life in Russia, where he had been serving for almost four years.

In response, Jameel sahib said:

***“When I first moved to Russia it was difficult because I did not know the language and everything was new and just to learn how to do basic errands was tough. However, I always remained positive and never thought that it is not possible for me to fulfil my duties because I knew I had the prayers and support of Huzoor. Whenever there is any issue, I write to him and he guides and prays for us. I also feel very lucky that I have been posted in that country about which the Promised Messiah (as) saw a revelation that one day like grains of sand people will enter the fold of Ahmadiyyat. I am incredibly grateful that I have been given this opportunity to serve and so when it is freezing cold I do not feel sad but feel proud that I am able to serve the Jamaat in this part of the world.”***

Jameel sahib continued:

***“My son was born in Russia and the Russians have a law which meant that we would have to return to Pakistan and apply for a visa for him from there. I knew this could take a very long time and so I wrote to Huzoor for prayers and miraculously the Russian authorities agreed to bypass their law and issued my son a visa in Russia without us having to go back. It was the first time in our Jamaat’s history that an Ahmadi child was given a visa in Russia itself.”***

### **An example of faith**

Another family to meet Huzoor that day were *Tariq Mahmood (40)*, who had been in Germany for five years, and his wife *Razia Tariq*, who had joined her husband in Germany a few months earlier in 2017.

Tariq sahib told me that he was from Sialkot in Pakistan and that due to his faith, he had been the victim of a horrific attack in 2007.

Yet, instead of jailing the perpetrators, it was he who was sent to jail in an example of how in Pakistan the laws continue to support those who oppress and target innocent people.

Before telling me the details of what had happened, Tariq sahib showed me some scars that remained on his face and temple. As he recounted the incident that led to his injuries he became emotional and could not hold back his tears.

Tariq sahib said:

***“One evening ten years ago I was walking home from our local Mosque, when suddenly, almost out of nowhere, someone appeared and struck my head forcefully with a hockey stick. I was knocked unconscious and remained so for an hour. However, the way in Pakistan is not for victims to get justice, at least not Ahmadi victims, and so instead a story was fabricated that I had attacked the non-Ahmadis. The police accepted this, even though I was the person who was severely hurt and the other people did not have a single scratch.”***

Tariq sahib continued:

***“As a result of the charges, I was kept in jail for two months before being granted bail and I cannot forget those two months as the conditions were so horrific and inhumane. I was surrounded by extremely dangerous people and had to live amongst them.***

***Nevertheless, my faith never weakened an iota and I never thought of hiding it for the sake of getting some ease. Furthermore, when I was released from jail I still walked to the Mosque and took the same route as I always did.***

***That was a very tough period for me and my family but today we received the best reward possible. We were able to meet Huzoor and he is everything. His smile and his affection have wiped away all our pain and grief.”***

As she listened to her husband narrate their past experiences, his wife Razia sahiba became understandably emotional. She too had tears running down her face and told me of how her grandfather was denied burial in their village because he was an Ahmadi.

As our conversation came to an end, Razia sahiba wiped away her tears and said:

***“Our parents are still in Pakistan and so I ask that if you ever have a chance please request Huzoor’s prayers that Allah protects them. We want them to be with us but they are now too old and frail to travel.”***

### An unexpected journey

During the day, I spent some time with *Arsalan Warraich*, one of the two students of Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada, who had the honour of travelling as part of Huzoor's Qafila.

I knew Arsalan, as we had walked together in Peace Village, during Huzoor's 2016 Canada tour. Size-wise, he is very imposing, very tall and well-built, yet despite his size, he is very softly-spoken.

As we spoke, he told me the story of how he, and his fellow Jamia Canada student, *Farrukh*, had come to have the opportunity to travel with Huzoor.

I had been surprised to see him travel with the Qafila because just a few days earlier he had told me that he was going to travel to the Germany Jalsa with some friends and they would be travelling by car on their own.

Explaining what happened, Arsalan said:

***“A few weeks ago, I had a Mulaqat with Huzoor and I asked if I could travel with him to Germany. However, Huzoor said that the Qafila would be small and so I should make my own arrangements. Thus, I arranged to travel with my Jamia friend Farrukh and a friend from UK who was going to take us in his car. However, due to work, the person whose car we were going with could only travel to Germany the day before Jalsa, whereas we wanted to spend as much time in Germany near Huzoor as possible.”***

Arsalan told me that he and Farrukh looked online at other possible ways to travel. They looked at flights, trains, buses but all proved outside of their budget.

Finally, they came across a website called *Blablacar* which was essentially a form of modern hitchhiking booked online in advance. Through the website, they found a person who was travelling to Germany and was willing to let them sit in his car for a fee which they could afford.

Just as they were about to book, a worker in the Private Secretary's office advised them to seek Huzoor's permission before travelling in this way.

Telling me what happened next, Arsalan said:

***"I went and told Private Secretary sahib about our plan. A few minutes later he came out of Huzoor's office and said that Huzoor has not given permission for us to travel in this way because it was impossible to know who we would be travelling with and for all we knew they could be criminals or smugglers or anyone. However, Private Secretary sahib also informed us that Huzoor had graciously said that Wakalat-e-Tabshir (Office of Foreign Missions) would arrange our travel to Germany. We were so overjoyed and could not believe Huzoor's kindness."***

Arsalan continued:

***"Later the same evening, on Friday, the day before Huzoor was travelling, suddenly our plans changed again. The Private Secretary told us that Huzoor had now instructed that myself and Farrukh should be included***

***in his Qafila and would travel on this tour with him. You cannot imagine how overwhelmed, shocked and emotional we were. Literally, hours before Huzoor departed from London, he included us in his Qafila and an extra car was added to the Qafila list. To be here and to travel with Huzoor and then to see him at all the prayers and as he walks to his office is just indescribable.”***

I told Arsalan that such feelings never lessened. I have travelled with Huzoor for a few years and still every time he walks past or I see him, I get shivers and feel a mixture of excitement, joy and nerves. Just as Arsalan had said, the feeling of being near Huzoor really is indescribable.

### **Unable to see!**

During that first day, I had one problem which at most could be described as ‘trivial’. As I got ready in the morning, I realised there was no mirror in my room. I looked on all the walls, on the side-table, and inside the cupboards but could not find one anywhere.

As a result, when I combed my hair I was unsure how it looked and also as I fastened my tie I did not know if the knot was properly made.

During the day, I kept debating in my mind if I should request a mirror but I was held back by the worry that the local Jamaat might think I am obsessed with my appearance and that I could not survive without a mirror! On the other hand, I did not want to go out of my room each morning looking a mess!

In the end, I texted Jeryullah Khan, a young Missionary with whom I am friendly, and who has the quality of being discrete, and told him my predicament! Thankfully, he arranged for a mirror to be sent later in the day, which was a relief!

### **Emotions of Ahmadis**

Later in the day, I met with some more Ahmadis who had been blessed with the opportunity to meet Huzoor in Mulaqat, including *Muzaffar Ahmad* (31) and his wife *Farrah Tabassam*.

Originally, from Faisalabad, Muzaffar sahib had been in Germany for four years and his wife had joined him in early 2016 from Pakistan.

Speaking of how his life in Germany compared to his life in Pakistan, Muzaffar sahib said:

***“In Pakistan, every day was a challenge because of the persecution faced by the Jamaat. In both school and college, I used to face problems. For example, people would curse me or curse the Promised Messiah (as). Others would refuse to eat with me or my Ahmadi friends. This was the low-level everyday persecution that I faced. There were also Ahmadis in our region who were violently attacked and some were martyred. However, here in Germany, we are free to practice our religion. Even my wife can come to the Mosque, whereas in Pakistan our Ahmadi ladies were restricted due to security issues.”***

Farrah sahiba had just met Huzoor for the very first time in her life and was understandably very emotional. She said:

***“When I was in Huzoor’s office, I could not speak and just kept thinking that I am in the presence of an angel. Even now you can see that I cannot stop my tears. How lucky am I? What a blessed day this is for my family! Our baby is Waqf-e-Nau, and so I seek Huzoor’s prayers that he grows to fulfil the pledge that we made on his behalf. I wanted to ask Huzoor to pray that he becomes a Missionary but I could not speak at all and so if you ever have a chance please ask Huzoor to pray that our son becomes a wonderful Missionary of the Jamaat.”***

Another family to meet Huzoor were *Muhammad Ashraf (51)*, his wife *Amatul Wadood* and their children.

Ashraf sahib had been in Germany for six years, whilst his family had joined him more recently.

They were originally from Gujrat, where the Jamaat has faced sustained persecution in recent decades and Ashraf sahib had himself experienced this.

Muhammad Ashraf sahib said:

***“In 1989, the opponents of Ahmadiyyat came and burned down our home and also those of other Ahmadis in the area. Thankfully, we were able to re-build our homes with the help and support of our Jamaat. It is due to such experiences that I am incredibly grateful to have religious freedom here in Germany. I am proud of the fact that I can openly do Tabligh here***



***and distribute leaflets or be part of Tabligh stalls. Those days when I could not openly even offer greetings of salam are over and all I can say is Alhamdolillah.”***

His wife, Amatul Wadood sahiba, told me how it felt to meet Khalifatul Masih for the very first time in her life. She said:

***“Those precious moments were unlike any I have ever experienced in my life before. I have seen Huzoor countless times on MTA, yet the feeling of actually being in his presence is completely different and feels out of this world.”***

Amatul Wadood sahiba continued:

***“If I have learned anything, it is that the Ahmadiis here in the West should never take their blessings for granted. When they go to the Mosque they should realise it is an honour, a blessing and a great privilege. When they tell others that they are Ahmadi Muslims, they should understand how lucky they are to be able to profess their faith openly and with pride. These are the basic things that so many Ahmadiis are deprived of in Pakistan.”***

Another Ahmadi to meet Huzoor was *Muhammad Abu Bakr (31)* who was from Sargodha.

Accompanied by his family, he told me he had served in Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya in Pakistan.

Muhammad Abu Bakr sahib said:

***“I served as Qaid Majlis in Khuddamul Ahmadiyya and it was a great experience. Despite the persecution and restrictions, the structure of our Jamaat in Pakistan remains extremely strong and, in my opinion, still remains even stronger than our Jamaats here in Europe. The training we received in Khuddamul Ahmadiyya in Pakistan was amazing and it taught us so many life skills and how to serve others and how to organise different things.”***

Speaking about meeting Huzoor, Muhammad Abu Bakr sahib said:

***“To see Huzoor was an experience I will never forget. It was faith-affirming and I felt so lucky to be sitting with the best person in the world. Huzoor is like a magnet that you cannot help but be attracted to him. I swear that, due to the blessings of Khilafat eventually those who persecute us will all die out, but our faith and our beliefs will remain alive until the very end.”***

I also met three siblings, *Muhammad Nawaz (31)* and his two sisters, *Sumera* and *Saima* after they had met Huzoor. They told me that their maternal ancestors were Ahmadis but their paternal ancestors were non-Ahmadis.

Thus, their mother was an Ahmadi but their father was not. As a result, they had endured a great deal of family conflict and tribulations growing up, yet the faith of these three siblings in Ahmadiyyat had remained firm throughout.

Speaking moments after their Mulaqat, Muhammad Nawaz sahib said:

***“Today, I have forgotten any pain I have felt in the past because I have just met the person who is the most kind, beautiful and loving personality in the world. In just a few minutes, our beloved Huzoor has given us the guidance and inspiration that will benefit us for the rest of our lives.”***

Sumera sahiba said:

***“In Pakistan, I could not even say the Kalima openly. Conditions were such that our property was taken from us and so we would go to Court but the court officials had no sympathy for us, or even a sense of justice because we were Ahmadis. However, every time we felt opposition, our faith increased in the truth of the Promised Messiah (as). Thus, where they think they will crush our spirit, the opposite is proving true.”***

Very emotionally, the third sibling, Saima sahiba said:

***“I beseech Huzoor’s prayers that our father accepts Ahmadiyyat. He is a good man at heart but comes under the pressure of his relatives and for this reason, he opposes us. For the sake of our family and for the sake of my father, I desperately seek Huzoor’s prayers that this miracle may occur, which would bring peace to our home.”***

### **Happy to see me go**

In the past, whenever I have gone away, my son *Mahid* has been a little upset but now he has become more used to it and knows that if I go away, I will,

Insha'Allah, also come back and more importantly he knows that there is a good chance I will bring him back a toy or two!

Hence, this time before leaving, when I told Mahid I was travelling with Huzoor to Germany he was actually very happy. He said:

***“Abba (father), please pack your suitcase, go to Jalsa Germany and bring me back a toy car or bus!”***

However Mahid did have one condition – he said I could only go for ‘one night’.

In response, I told him I was going for ten days and so he started to negotiate with me. First, he said *“Ok, go for two days”*, to which I replied I was going for ten days. Very kindly, Mahid then upped his offer and said: *“Go for five days!”*

Anyway, the blessings of modern technology are such that being able to video-call home meant that I was able to speak to Mahid and Moshahid most days on *FaceTime*. Invariably, Mahid’s first question would be whether I had acquired a toy car or bus for him yet!

Sometimes, I meet old Missionaries or other *Waqf-e-Zindighis* (life devotees) and they tell stories of previous eras when they would be posted in far-off countries and would not see or even speak to their children for months at a time.

Such stories, always remind me how lucky I am to be serving in an era where communication is so much easier.

## Emotions of Ahmadis

On the morning of 21 August 2017, Huzoor held another session of family Mulaqats.

Soon after they had Mulaqat with Huzoor, I met an Ahmadi father and son, *Amer Jalil (47)* and *Yusuf Jalil (17)*. Amer sahib was from Sargodha in Pakistan but had moved to Germany in the early 1990s, where his son was born. It was interesting talking to him about life in Pakistan in the 1980s.

Amer sahib said:

***“When I was a boy or in my teens during the conditions for Ahmadis were extremely difficult. It was the era of General Zia and so there was a lot of incitement and hatred levelled against us in my hometown. On a few occasions, non-Ahmadis came and attacked me, whilst on another occasion, they pitched tents outside our home in an effort to intimidate us.”***

Amer sahib continued:

***“If anyone asks whether such persecution ever weakened our faith, my only response is ‘Allah have mercy’ because our faith in Ahmadiyyat will never ever be weakened, Insha’Allah. We are ready to tolerate every cruelty, no matter how severe, because we have Khilafat. They can kill us, our children and our loved ones but it makes no difference because we have the love and prayers of Khilafat. I just met Huzoor and he is the most***

***pure and angelic person I have ever seen and so I am ready to sacrifice everything for him and our Jamaat.”***

It was very interesting and emotional to speak to Amer sahib. I did not spend enough time to know much about him but my personal impression from our conversation was that perhaps he was not that active in the Jamaat.

Yet, as soon as the issue of persecution and faith were raised, his inner devotion and passion for the Jamaat came to the fore. Suddenly, I felt his love for the Promised Messiah (as) and Khilafat gush forth and you could see that when he said that he was ready to die for the Jamaat, he meant it.

It seemed that this passion had transmitted to his son Yusuf as well, who said:

***“I have grown up here in Germany and so I have not faced any persecution but I swear if ever I have to face difficulties or opposition like my father or like other Ahmadis in Pakistan then I am ready for anything. I am ready to give my life for the sake of Ahmadiyyat without any hesitation. I saw Huzoor today and I know that whatever he says is true and my life can only be blessed if I listen to and obey Khilafat.”***

Another family to meet Huzoor that morning were *Shabir Ahmad Dogar (40)* and his wife *Farah Shabir*. They were originally from Narowal in Pakistan.

Shabir sahib told me of an incident which had maintained and protected the faith in Ahmadiyyat of his family before he himself was born.

Shabir sahib said:

*“When my father was young, even before he got married, most of his family members lost their faith and left the Jamaat. My father was completely illiterate and so he was also vulnerable to the false things his family was saying about the Jamaat.*

*Anyway, before he had made a final decision he became severely ill and doctors said his illness could prove fatal. At that time of crisis, my father prayed to Allah saying ‘If the Promised Messiah (as) is true then let me recover my health and let me attend the coming Jalsa Salana Qadian’.*”

Narrating further, Shabir sahib said:

*“Some days later my father saw a dream in which two doctors had healed him. Alhamdulillah, soon after my father’s health improved and he was able to go to the Jalsa. Whilst attending, in the crowd he saw the same two people who had healed him in his dream. It was a true miracle and he realised instantly that whatever his family said was wrong and Allah saved his faith through this incident.”*

Shabir sahib continued:

*“I am so grateful that my father did that prayer when he was ill because it is for that reason that I am standing here today as a proud Ahmadi Muslim. It is due to those prayers that today I met Khalifa-Waqt and he met me with such love, even though I am nothing.”*

Speaking after meeting Huzoor for the first time, Shabir sahib's wife, Farrah sahiba said:

***"I cannot describe the inner happiness and peace I feel at this time. When I lived in Pakistan, I used to hear of people who met Huzoor and I would always think that they are the luckiest people on earth and never imagined that I would have the same opportunity. Yet today, me, my husband and children are the luckiest people on earth and it is all due to the Grace of Allah."***

I also met an elder called *Alla-Rakkha* (69) from Faisalabad, who told me that he and his family had faced a lot of persecution in Pakistan. He said that in the past, his house was burned and attempts had been made to murder him and other Ahmadis who lived nearby.

He said his family had been boycotted and so would not be allowed to do routine things, such as enter certain markets because they were Ahmadis. Similarly, his daughters were expelled from schools after pressure from local clerics and extremists demanding that they be removed as they were 'Mirzais'. His children had been beaten and had been ejected from *rickshaws* when the driver was told they were Ahmadis.

I asked Alla-Rakkha sahib if such persecution ever became too much too bear. In response, he said:

***"Tauba-Istighfar! Never! Never will our faith weaken even one iota! They can take my life a thousand times but they will never remove my faith in the Promised Messiah (as) because our faith in the Promised Messiah***



***(as) is our eternal treasure. Abid sahib, remember they can kill us but the one thing they can never take is our faith. This is why, despite the might and cruelties they try to impose, our opponents are actually completely powerless.”***

### **Group Mulaqat in Baitus Sabuh**

Later that morning, Huzoor walked from his office to the Mosque where he met around 300 Ahmadi men individually. The Ahmadis lined up in rows and came one by one to meet Huzoor.

During this time, they were able to introduce themselves and have *musafa*, seek Huzoor’s prayers and also have a photo taken with Huzoor. With great patience and love, Huzoor met every single person and, despite the shortage of time, Huzoor took interest in each of the people and would ask them questions or respond to their requests.

There were so many people to meet that Huzoor would shake the hand of each Ahmadi with his right hand and then pull them gently towards him and take their hand in his left hand.

As he continued to hold their hand and talk to them, the next person would come forward and Huzoor would shake their hand with his right hand and they would wait until the person in front moved on and then they would come and hold Huzoor’s left hand.

In this way, people were able to spend twice the time in the company of Huzoor.

Many of the Ahmadis were overcome with emotion, as they met Huzoor for the first time.

One elderly and frail man approached and met Huzoor like a young child meeting his father. Huzoor asked him where he was from but the elder could not speak. Tears rolled from his eyes and his body was shaking and so Huzoor lovingly touched his cheek and prayed for him.

Another Ahmadi approached Huzoor and asked for his prayers. He told Huzoor that he was being investigated by the police over a certain matter.

Upon this, Huzoor asked him very directly:

***“Did you do something wrong?”***

With great emotion and shame, the man nodded.

Upon seeing this, Huzoor said:

***“Then do Istighfar repeatedly and keep doing it as much as possible every day.”***

As the hundreds of Ahmadis came and went, their emotions and facial expressions varied person to person. Some were completely overwhelmed upon meeting Huzoor and could not hold back their tears, whilst others beamed with joy and excitement. Whatever their state, they were united in their love for Khilafat and they were each able to acquire the love and prayers of Khalifa-Waqt.

### **Continued patience**

When Huzoor is in Baitus Sabuh, often Ahmadis line the corridors leading to Huzoor's office or to the Mosque, so that they have the opportunity to wave to Huzoor and offer *salam*, when he is entering or departing from his office or from the Mosque.

That afternoon, one of the people standing in the corridor was Arsalan, the Jamia Canada student, who was travelling with the Qafila.

As Huzoor walked past him, Arsalan waved and Huzoor noticed him and said:

***“Arsalan, who told you I have pain in my ankles and legs? Alhamdolillah, I am fine.”***

After this comment, Huzoor smiled and proceeded onwards.

I later asked Arsalan the context of Huzoor's comment and he told me he had heard that Huzoor had a lot of pain in his leg and ankles and so he had written to Huzoor about this. Amongst the thousands of letters he reads each week, Huzoor had recalled this comment and so had replied in person to Arsalan.

Huzoor's comment also illustrated his continued patience, whereby whether Huzoor has pain or not, he disregards it and rarely shares it with others, as he does not want any Ahmadis to be worried or concerned. Rather, Huzoor continues his Jamaat duties, irrespective of his health.

## Spiritual captivity

This year, Azhar Hanif sahib, Missionary-in-charge USA, was in attendance in Germany, as he was due to give a speech at the Jalsa. I was looking forward to Azhar sahib's speech, as he is a very powerful and moving orator.

We were staying in the same building and we also ate our meals in the same dining room. During the afternoon break, I was seated next to Azhar sahib as we took lunch.

Taking advantage of the situation, I asked Azhar sahib if we could sit down together in the coming days, as I wished to learn about his experiences as an African-American Missionary.

With humility and a slightly embarrassed smile, Azhar sahib most politely declined my request. He said:

***“Abid sahib, I really like reading your diaries because they tell me very emotional and moving stories about my Khalifa. However, I do not have any desire to read about myself because I am nothing except a slave of Masih-e-Maud (as) and a servant of Khilafat. Wherever my Khalifa tells me to go, I go, and whatever he tells me to say, I say. Whatever he asks of me, I try my best to fulfil. That is my life story.”***

Thereafter, Azhar sahib repeated the words ‘I am nothing except a slave of Masih Maud (as) and a servant of Khilafat’.

Whilst, I still hope that one day Azhar sahib will give me an opportunity to talk to him in more detail, those few informal minutes told me more than enough and left a lasting impression upon me.

Azhar Hanif sahib is, of course, an African-American and thus hails from a people who have known great cruelties and who were subjected to slavery and treated like animals for centuries.

Even today, it cannot be said that everything is fair and equal in racial terms. Often, we see heartbreaking interviews of black people explaining the discrimination they continue to face and the hardships they are forced to endure.

The struggle against slavery is a story of injustice the like of which has rarely been witnessed in history.

Yet here I was sitting alongside a man of African heritage, who spoke of pride at being a slave. I was sitting alongside an African-American man who had no desire to be anything other than a servant.

Of course, this was a different type of slavery, a different type of servitude and a different type of bondage.

It was not a slavery of shackles or cuffs but was a means of true freedom and salvation.

It was a spiritual captivity that did not demean or humiliate, rather bestowed honour, dignity and liberty.

## **Inauguration of Baitus Samad Mosque, Giessen**

In the late afternoon of 21 August 2017, Huzoor departed from Baitus Sabuh to inaugurate the *Baitus Samad Mosque* in the German city of Giessen, a university city.

The Qafila departed from Baitus Sabuh at 4.55pm and arrived at the new Mosque at 5.45pm. Upon arriving at the Mosque, Huzoor unveiled a plaque to mark the opening of the Mosque, before leading a silent prayer.



Thereafter, Huzoor entered the Mosque itself and led the Zuhr and Asr prayers.

Following Namaz, Huzoor met members of the local Jamaat and distributed chocolates to the local Ahmadi children.

### **Press Conference in Giessen**

At 6.25pm, the Qafila travelled to a nearby centre known as the *Kongresshalle Giessen*, where a reception was held with more than 265 dignitaries and guests.

Upon arrival, Amir Sahib Germany informed Huzoor that first a Press Conference had been arranged.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor said:

***“According to the programme that I was given, the Press Conference was to be held after the event.”***

Thus, despite thinking the Press Conference was to be held later, Huzoor went straight into a room near the main hall where various journalists and media personnel were waiting.

The arrangements for the Press Conference were much better than in the past in Germany, as the event was held in a private room, rather than at the back of the stage or standing in a courtyard, as had taken place on previous visits to Germany.

During the next fifteen minutes, Huzoor was asked about the objectives of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, about the rise of terrorism and extremism, the fight against radicalisation and about the segregation of men and women in Islam.

A journalist asked Huzoor about the causes of ‘growing hostility’ towards Muslims in Europe. In response, Huzoor said that the natural result of terrorist attacks and other cruelties was fear and anger.



On the other side, Huzoor reiterated that all forms of terrorism and extremism were entirely opposed to Islam’s teachings and that Ahmadi Muslims were portraying the true teachings of Islam.

Upon this, the journalist asked a follow-up question, where she said:

***“Most Muslims do not agree with Ahmadis and do not accept you as Muslims?”***

The point being made by the journalist was not a new one. Over the years, many journalists who have interviewed Huzoor or who have met members of our *Press & Media* team, have sought to assert that Ahmadis do not represent Islam because we remain a small minority amongst Muslims.



In response, Huzoor very beautifully informed the journalist that such opposition within Islam was a sign of the truth of the Promised Messiah (as) and a fulfillment of the prophecies of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa).

Huzoor said:

***“The Holy Prophet (sa) prophesied that at a time when the majority of Muslims will forget the true teachings of Islam, Allah the Almighty will send a Reformer to restore the original teachings of the religion.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“Most of the Muslims have not accepted Ahmadiyyat yet but each year hundreds of thousands are accepting it. Our Community was founded 128 years ago by a single man, who lived in a tiny and remote village of India, and yet today he has millions of followers across the world.***

***For a religious community to spread fully is not a short-term process but takes a very long time. For example, it took Christianity around 300 years to spread across the world but the Promised Messiah (as) has said that 300 years will not pass by the time that his community is in the majority.”***

With his response, Huzoor countered the assertion that our Jamaat’s views are ‘irrelevant’ by showing that the objection of other Muslims to our beliefs is actually a sign of our truth.

Whilst the Jamaat could not claim to be a dominant sect of Islam in terms of numbers, it could, and did claim, to be a representation of the true teachings of Islam.



Another journalist asked Huzoor about the fact that Ahmadi women were sitting in a separate hall and asked if such segregation was compatible with *'integration'*.

As he had done so on countless occasions, Huzoor made it clear that integration was not defined by men and women sitting together or a rejection by Muslims of the concept of Hijab.

Huzoor said:

***"Integration is not to throw away your headscarf or to abandon all forms of modesty! It is not to go out clubbing or drinking! For me, integration***

***is to love your country, to be law abiding, to use all your faculties and potential for the sake of your country. All immigrants should be honest and loyal to their adopted nation.”***

Huzoor continued:

***“Segregation is a religious issue but this has not deprived Ahmadi women or hindered them in any way. In our Jamaat there are many female doctors, nurses, scientists, architects and of many other professions. They are working in a professional environment and are excelling but when it comes to prayer and worship they prefer to remain separated as per their religious teachings.”***

### **A touching gesture**

Following the Press Conference, Huzoor proceeded to a patio outside the conference centre, where the *Lord Mayor of Giessen*, Mrs. Dietlind Grabe-Bolz had requested Huzoor to water a new tree which would be planted at the Mosque as a gift from the city.

The water being used to water the plant was from a local river and the Lord Mayor said this was a symbol of how the new Mosque was welcome in Giessen.

As Huzoor went forward to water the plant, the Lord Mayor stayed back.

Perhaps, she thought that Huzoor would not want her to join him, as she was a woman.

Huzoor noted this and said:

***“We should both hold the watering can and pour it together.”***

The Lord Mayor seemed both surprised and delighted at Huzoor’s gesture and re-confirmed if it would be ok for her to join Huzoor. As Huzoor again invited her forward, the Lord Mayor joined Huzoor in watering the tree with water taken from the local river.

With a smile, Huzoor said:

***“This is true integration.”***

Huzoor’s gesture was simple, yet incredibly thoughtful and a very effective means of dispelling any possible thoughts in the mind of the Lord Mayor that segregation in Islam meant that women were considered less than men.

Where Huzoor does not shake the hands of women, due to Islamic teachings, he also always makes it clear that such separation does not prevent men and women from both working towards peace and the betterment of society.

### **Main Reception in Giessen**

A formal reception to mark the opening of the Baitus Samad Mosque took place thereafter in a large hall at the centre. The hall itself was extremely nice and, apart from dozens of tables at which guests were seated, there was an auditorium at the far side of the hall where more guests were able to sit, as well as some Ahmadi members of the local Jamaat.

After *Tilawat*, a welcome address was given by Amir Sahib Germany, followed by guest remarks from several dignitaries, including the Lord Mayor.

The guests all offered their congratulations on the opening of the Mosque and each offered their appreciation at the Jamaat's commitment to spreading peace and tolerance.

Referencing a terrorist attack that had taken place in Barcelona a few days earlier, the Lord Mayor of Giessen said:

***“Ahmadi Muslims are peaceful and if people were to follow your values then we would never see terrorist atrocities as we saw just a few days ago in Barcelona.”***

The Lord Mayor continued:

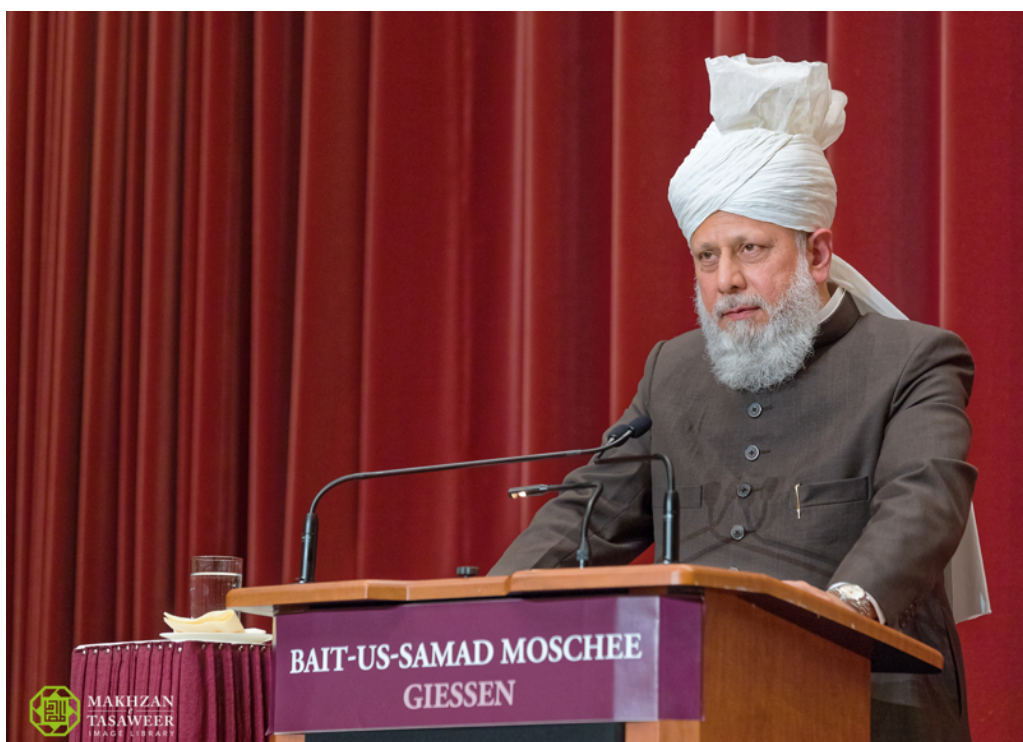
***“As a symbol of unity and togetherness, His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad and I just watered a tree together that will be planted at the Mosque in which water from the local river was used.”***

### **Huzoor's address**

Following the guest remarks, Huzoor delivered the keynote address, during which he spoke about the need for religious freedom and tolerance in society, as well as referring to various other aspects of Islamic teachings.

Beginning his address, Huzoor said:

***“This mosque is named Baitus-Samad. Al-Samad is an attribute of God which means a Being who is Everlasting and completely Independent, whereas everything else is dependent upon God... Thus, Allah the Almighty has called on mankind to worship Him alone and seek refuge in His existence as He alone is Al-Samad, the Everlasting.”***



Huzoor also spoke about how Islam taught Muslims to believe in and respect all the *Prophets of God* and that this teaching was the basis of religious tolerance.

Huzoor said:

***“When we speak of Jews and say the name of Moses, we say ‘peace be upon him’ due to our respect for Moses and his followers. When we speak***

***of Jesus, we also say 'peace be upon him' as we believe him to be a righteous prophet of God who was sent to spread peace. Thus, we respect and honour all prophets and their teachings and this is the means of establishing true peace and harmony in the world."***

Huzoor said that differences of religion or beliefs should be respected, rather than used to ferment division and hatred.

Huzoor said:

***"People should not object unnecessarily to religious differences that may exist between people because that will foster division and needlessly provoke the sentiments of people."***

In conclusion, Huzoor said:

***"We desire to live in a world of compassion and mercy, instead of a world consumed by increasing hostility, disorder, grievances and conflict. These are our objectives and it is for these reasons that we build Mosques throughout the world."***

### **Impact of Huzoor's address**

Following the event, I met various guests and it was clear that Huzoor's address had removed many fears and misconceptions about Islam in the hearts of local people.

One person, I met called *David* was a practicing Christian. He pointed at me and said that in the past he would have felt ‘*apprehensive*’ to see a Muslim like me come and sit with him but such apprehensions were now gone.

David said:

***“Having listened to the Caliph, I am very glad that you are sitting with me and I understand that you are not a threat and that real Muslims are peaceful and tolerant. Honestly, I feel so much respect for your Khalifa after listening to him this evening. Whilst I was a little scared of Muslims before, all I heard from the Khalifa was ‘peace’, ‘love’, ‘equality’ and he showed that your slogan of ‘Love for All, Hatred for None’ is not meaningless but is true.”***

A German lady, *Mrs. Wutte*, told me she had benefitted a lot from Huzoor’s words. She said:

***“I am astonished at how much I learned in one day! It is clear that terrorism, violence and extremism are nothing to do with Islam. The Caliph could not have been clearer and his words are extremely logical. Frankly speaking, there are some evil people in each nation and in each religion but we do not blame the nation or the other religions, so it is wrong to blame Islam if there are a few evil people who act in its name.”***

A guest, *Frank Micher*, said:

***“It was interesting how His Holiness raised the issue of women’s rights and segregation himself and did not hide this aspect of your faith. I***



***appreciated this a lot because there is a view that Islam discriminates against women but His Holiness proved that this is not the case. I also very much liked his definition of integration, where he said integration means serving your country.”***

Another guest, Mr. Shaheen said:

***“The world needs your Khalifa because so much of the world views Islam with hate but if they knew the Islam that the Khalifa spoke of then they would not fear or hate it. They would see that Islam is a religion that teaches loyalty to one’s country and that Mosques are not a place of extremism.***

Another guest, Mr. Currie said:

***“I was simply overwhelmed when I saw and heard the Caliph and felt embarrassed that I did not know about him before or about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The Caliph comes across as very loving, considerate and the Islam he presents is not the religion that we see in the media but is something spiritual that can bring society together.”***

### **An ‘emotional’ lady**

I try to meet as many people as possible after such events and I consider it a great blessing and privilege to meet people from around the world during Huzoor’s various tours.

Whilst there are occasionally people who continue to harbour reservations about Islam or its teachings, mostly, I have found the majority of people to be very moved by Huzoor's words and their opinions on Islam have changed for the better.

Thus, as I was meeting different guests, I was curious when a young Jamaat Missionary came up to me and pointed in the direction of a German lady.

The young Missionary said:

***“Abid sahib, you have to meet this Germany lady because when the Quran was being recited she became extremely emotional and overwhelmed. She had tears in her eyes and in fact, she stood up and had to leave the hall as she could not control her emotions.”***

Thus, a few minutes later, I approached the lady and introduced myself and I asked her if there was anything that had stood out during the event.

In reply, she told me she liked many things about Huzoor's address, however she did not mention the *Tilawat* at all. I followed up by asking if there was anything else but again she spoke about Huzoor's address only.

Given what the Missionary had told me, I specifically asked her how she had found the *Tilawat*.

In reply, the lady was polite but there was nothing to suggest that she had been '*overwhelmed with emotion*'

Finally, I directly mentioned that someone had told me that she was very emotional during the *Tilawat* and so had to leave the room.

To my surprise, the lady suddenly burst into laughter and said:

***“The reason I got up was not due to emotion but because I suddenly had a coughing fit and did not want to disturb the proceedings and so I left the hall for a few minutes. The gentleman is right to say that I had tears in my eyes but it was due to the sudden bout of coughing and not due to the emotion!”***

As I heard her response, I could not help but laugh myself, although I also felt embarrassed and apologised to her for my mistake! Thankfully she did not seem to mind and was amused by the fact that her coughing fit had been so misunderstood!

Later the young Missionary came up to me and enthusiastically asked me about my meeting with the lady. He too was a little embarrassed when I told him what had transpired!

### **Serving Khalifatul Masih**

During the journey back from Giessen, *Abdul Qadous Khawaja*, one of Huzoor’s security guards, told me a personal story from 2001.

For more than a decade, Qadous sahib has lived in London serving in Huzoor’s personal security team. Previously, he had grown up in Frankfurt, and for several years served in the Germany Khuddam security team. Thus,

whenever Hazrat Khalifatul Masih came to Germany, he would stay at the Mosque throughout and do security duty.

In 2001, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) came to Germany and so Qadous sahib did security duty for the duration of Huzoor's tour. Subsequently, the day after Huzoor returned to London, Qadous sahib planned to return to his normal day job, however, whilst on his way to work he was involved in a very severe and life-threatening car crash.

Qadous sahib told me that, with the *Grace of Allah*, a doctor was passing by and saw the wreckage of the crash and came to help. The doctor said that if an ambulance was called, Qadous sahib would not survive and so he needed to be airlifted. As a result, he was airlifted and various critical surgeries took place over the next two days.

Qadous sahib suffered many severe internal injuries and broken bones but *Alhamdulillah* survived and woke up for the first time two or three days after the crash.

Speaking of that moment, Qadous sahib said:

***“When I woke up in the hospital, I remembered the crash and the first thought that came in my mind was ‘I have survived’. After that, I did not think of my wife, parents or family but the next thought that came in my mind was that I will be unable to do security duty for Khalifatul Masih ever again. That one thought was more painful than any physical pain that the crash had caused.”***

Qadous sahib continued:

***“My brother came to see me at the hospital and told me that they had sent a fax to London to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) requesting prayers and that the London security team informed that the next day after Fajr, Huzoor specifically asked for an update on my health. As I lay there, almost crippled, I felt so humbled and joyous that my Khalifa had remembered me and due to his prayers I recovered much faster than expected.”***

Narrating further, Qadous sahib said:

***“With the Grace of Allah, the next tour of Germany by Khalifatul Masih was the first foreign tour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) and I was physically well enough to do duty as I had in the past. Alhamdolillah, since 2005 I am serving in the Amla Hifazat (Security Team) and I consider it the greatest honour to be serving Khalifa-Waqt.”***

Listening to the story of Qadous sahib made the journey go faster and I was particularly moved by the fact that when he woke up after being in a coma, his first concern was the thought that he might not be able to do security duty of Khalifatul Masih ever again.

### **A sense of guilt**

On 22 August 2017, Huzoor spent the day meeting Ahmadis in family Mulaqats. As previous days, the vast majority of people to meet Huzoor were meeting him for the very first time.

One person to meet Huzoor was *Waseem Ahmad Khan (39)*, who was from Lahore and his local Mosque in Pakistan was the *Darul Zikr* Mosque, which was one of the two Mosques attacked on 28 May 2010.

Waseem sahib told me that he was part of the Khuddam security team in his local Qiadat in Lahore. However, by chance, he moved to Germany just one month before the 28 May attacks.

As a result, he watched in horror as news came in a few weeks later of the terrorist attack and saw as some of his Ahmadi friends were martyred.

In the aftermath of the attack, Waseem sahib felt a prolonged sense of guilt. He said:

***“After 28 May, I felt guilty that I had moved to Germany and so was saved, whilst some of my friends, with whom I used to do duties, lost their lives and were martyred. To be honest, that guilt has stayed with me until today but seeing Huzoor in person has finally given me peace in my heart. I feel now that it is my duty to serve the Jamaat more and to move on.”***

I told Waseem sahib how when a *Jamia Ahmadiyya UK* student, Raza Saleem, died in a hiking accident in 2016, the boys who were with him felt a similar sense of guilt.

However, Huzoor had told them that true friendship and loyalty to the deceased demanded that they were not swallowed up by grief but that they sought to fulfil the work their brother and friend had left behind.

Upon this, Waseem sahib became emotional and started to wipe tears from his eyes. As he composed himself, he said:

***“Then I swear, from today onwards I will do everything possible to prove myself a true friend of those who died on 28 May. I will strive to serve Khilafat and to serve the Jamaat to the best of my abilities.”***

### **Emotions of Ahmadis**

Another person to meet Huzoor was *Mansoor Ahmad Virk (32)*, who was originally from Rabwah. He told me about the change of circumstances, he and his family had felt since moving to Germany.

Mansoor sahib said:

***“In Pakistan, the opposition to our Jamaat was so strong that sometimes it felt hard even to breathe as there was so much pressure on us. I later moved to Dubai and even there we had to keep quiet, and just to offer Friday prayers was a great challenge. Thus, I did not know what religious freedom was until I came to Germany.”***

Mansoor sahib continued:

***“Now, with the Grace of Allah, everything has changed. The experience of meeting Huzoor is so special and you just wish that the Mulaqat will never end. Also, the first time I heard Huzoor’s Tilawat (recitation) in Namaz, I could not control my emotions and I felt as though I was in another world.”***

Also meeting Huoor that day were *Rana Fazl-e-Omer (31)* and his wife *Hafiza*.

Fazal sahib told me that recently he received news that the gravestone of his great-grandfather, who was a companion of the Promised Messiah (as), had been destroyed by anti-Ahmadi extremists in Pakistan. They had also threatened to exhume his body from the ground.

Fazal sahib said:

***“We were constantly praying for the help of Allah the Almighty and to be saved from this opposition. Just a few weeks later, the person who was behind this plot, and who had threatened to take out our great-grandfather’s body from the ground, joined a terrorist group and he was subsequently killed by rocket-fire as he crossed the border from Pakistan into Afghanistan. Upon witnessing his end, the other members of his group became fearful and their threats ended.”***

Speaking about meeting Huoor, Fazal sahib’s wife, Hafiza sahiba said:

***“I was so nervous that I even forgot the name of our Mahalla (local estate) in Rabwah. However, somehow Huoor himself worked out which Mahalla I was from and reminded me! He even deciphered where my house in which I grew up was and reminded me of that as well! As my husband said, you become so awestruck when you see Huoor that you even forget your own name!”***



### A Punjabi poet

I also met an elderly Ahmadi, *Muhammad Yaqoob Kharal (77)*, who was born in Narowal, Pakistan but spent most of his life in Sindh. Having recently emigrated to Canada, he had spent the summer in London attending the UK Jalsa and had now travelled to Germany to attend the German Jalsa as well.

Telling me about his meeting with Huzoor in London a few weeks earlier, Yaqoob sahib said:

***“I met Huzoor on 24 July and he asked me where I was staying and so I told him I was at the Baitul Futuh Mosque. Huzoor is so kind and so was worried that I might be uncomfortable but I told him that my purpose was to be near him and so I did not need any physical comfort. Yet, out of his sheer grace, Huzoor said I should come and stay at the Fazl Mosque, as it would be easier for me. All I can say is Alhamdolillah because it meant that I could spend all day and night near my Khalifa.”***

Yaqoob sahib told me that he was serving full-time in the *langhar-khana* (*Jamaat kitchen*) and that in this capacity he was able to serve food to the students of Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada.

Yaqoob sahib said:

***“I work full-time in the langhar-khana and Alhamdolillah, I do not take a penny from the Jamaat. I am particularly proud to serve the students of Jamia because I feel that I am feeding those children who will one day go on to spread the message of Islam to the corners of the world as***

***ambassadors of Khalifa-Waqt. Now, if anyone asks me to introduce myself, I tell them that I am a humble servant of the servants of Khilafat.”***

Upon this, rather suddenly and to my surprise, Yaqoob sahib started to sing very loudly a Punjabi poem about the Promised Messiah (as) and Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

We were stood in the courtyard outside Baitus Sabuh and I could see that as some people walked past they were wondering why he was reciting a poem to me alone and so loudly. I have to admit at first I was wondering the same.

Yet, after a few seconds, I began to enjoy his poetry and recitation and though I did not understand every word, those that I did were a reflection of his sincere love for the Jamaat.

Each couplet was emotional, as he described Ahmadis as the children of Khilafat.

Hence, from wondering why he was reciting, I became somewhat emotional myself, particularly when I saw tears roll down his eyes as he recited.

Upon completing, Yaqoob sahib explained that he was well-known for reciting Punjabi poems and that he had recited them in front of Huzoor as well.

As our conversation ended, I was sure that I would not forget my meeting with Yaqoob sahib for a long while.

## A ticking clock

A sad reality for many people, and certainly for me, is that as the years go by, a clock starts ticking that reminds us that we are no longer in the flushes of youth. The clock is one that slowly turns from black to grey to white!

I myself started getting grey hairs a few weeks after the birth of our first child, Mahid. People often joke that kids turn a person grey and in my case, I would say it was actually true.

At the time, having only just entered my thirties, I did not wish to give the impression of having reached Ansar! Thus, one day back in 2013, I asked Huzoor for his advice about whether I should start colouring my beard.

In response, Huzoor did not say 'Yes' and nor did he say 'No'.

Rather, Huzoor simply said:

***"Once a person starts putting on dye then his hair will become white more quickly in future."***

Huzoor's cautionary note proved true.

For the past few years, I have dyed parts of my beard, where there have been patches of white.

However, whilst at the start an interval of one month was fine, now my white hairs start showing after just a week!

The tour to Germany was scheduled to last just 10 days and so a day before we left London, I coloured my beard thinking it would hopefully last the tour. Yet, during the week, white hairs started appearing suddenly and rapidly and so I asked Nadeem Amini to get me some dye, which he kindly did.

I decided to apply the dye during the week but was slightly nervous because it was a different company to the one I normally used in London.

I was also a bit concerned because the photo on the cover of the box was of a lady and not of a man! As I saw this, I kept wondering if men and women's hair were the same or whether different dyes were required. I decided to read the instructions but unfortunately they were all in German.

I opened the box and there were three bottles inside. I had no idea how to mix or use them and so I called Nadeem. He told me to ignore one of the bottles and to mix the other two and then apply to my beard for five minutes. He seemed confident and so I listened to what he had said but when mixed together, the colour of the dye came out as a very light blond. Upon this I panicked, thinking it is the wrong dye because the one I use in London, is reassuringly black in colour!

I video-called Nadeem and showed him the mix and asked him if he was playing a horrific trick on me by getting me to dye my hair blond!

Again, Nadeem said not to worry and this was how it was meant to be and that when I mixed it with my hair, it would colour it black.

Thus, very apprehensively, I applied the dye and during those few minutes waiting I felt my heart racing. I kept having a nightmare thought that I will turn up to Jalsa with a bleach blond beard!

Hence, whilst Nadeem had told me to apply it for five minutes, after three minutes I could wait no longer and so I washed it off desperate to see the result.

I rushed to the mirror and the relief was indescribable as I saw that my beard was coloured black and, despite my worst fears, it had actually worked very well!

I breathed a huge sigh of relief!

### **A gift from their beloved**

The next day, 23 August 2017, I was walking inside the complex of Baitus Sabuh when I met three African Ahmadis from The Gambia.

They were *Omar B. Shah (47)*, a Missionary in The Gambia, *Al-Haji Bakry Jagne (65)* and *Yankuba Sinayoko (43)*.

As we began to talk, Omar sahib suddenly stopped and said:

***“It is better to pray before we talk.”***

Thereafter, he recited *Surah Fatiha* and then offered *Durood* and only then started to tell me about his experiences in Africa.

I was very moved and thought of how our African Ahmadis are so strong in faith and prayer that even before a normal conversation they preferred to remember Allah and to offer salutations to the Holy Prophet (sa).

I had heard and read that under the newly elected Government in The Gambia, conditions for Ahmadis were much better, whereas we had faced persecution under the previous regime. Thus, I asked if they had seen or felt a change.

Responding to my query, Omar sahib said:

***“The Gambia is changing. I do not think anyone can ever fully trust politicians but the signs are promising. For example, our Government Minister attended the UK Jalsa, which was very significant and positive. Whatever change has occurred is simply due to the prayers of Huzoor and anything good that happens in future will also be a result of his prayers, Insha’Allah.”***

Omar sahib continued:

***“In The Gambia, the Ahmadis are very strong in faith. There are thousands of Ahmadis who have never met any Khalifa, yet their bond with Khilafat and love for it is unbreakable. Before coming, I told the local Ahmadis I would meet Huzoor on this trip and they were all so excited and it was as though they were having this blessing through me. I am just praying for the day that our Gambian Ahmadis have the honour of hosting Huzoor. When that happens, Insha’Allah, it will be unbelievable and historic.”***

Hearing this, I hoped and prayed that this desire of The Gambia Jamaat was fulfilled soon, Insha'Allah.

Yankuba sahib also told me about the situation in his country. He said:

***“After the election result, everyone expected that there will be a bloodbath in The Gambia, yet not a single drop of blood was shed. Not a single Gambian person thought there could be a peaceful transition and so this miracle was a direct result of the prayers of Khalifatul Masih. Even before the transition, Huzoor had told us to remain patient and said that everything will be ok and so it has proved.”***

When I asked Yankuba sahib if he had met Huzoor, he nodded and suddenly became emotional. Previously composed, suddenly tears stream down his face.

Yankuba sahib said:

***“Yes, I met Huzoor and throughout the meeting I felt as though every part of my body was shaking. I was magnetized by the presence of Huzoor.”***

Thereafter, Al-Haji Bakry Jagne sahib told me that he was proud to consider himself amongst the ‘pioneer’ Ahmadis in The Gambia.

He said that when he was younger he faced persecution and the land his family owned was seized by anti-Ahmadiyya extremists and for some years his family were forced to live in poverty.

Al-Haji Bakry sahib said:

***“Despite the vehement persecution, our faith never weakened and today our children are reaping the rewards. Allah the Almighty has blessed them with success in this life and it was actually my children who paid for my ticket so that I could come here to meet my beloved Khalifa.”***

Al-Haji Bakry sahib continued:

***“When you meet Huzoor the energy in the room and spirit touches your soul. I have met Presidents and leaders in the past but nothing can prepare you for meeting Huzoor. The spirituality that he emits is completely pure and sincere.”***

Each of the three Africans had a white envelope in their hands and Al-Haji Bakry sahib told me where they had come from. He said:

***“After our Mulaqat concluded and we had left Huzoor’s office someone came up to us and handed us these envelopes. They told us that Huzoor had sent a gift for each of us.***

***We were completely stunned and overwhelmed. We should be giving Huzoor gifts, yet he is the one who is so generous and loving.***

***We can never thank Allah for such love and we are extremely humbled by Huzoor’s kindness. All three of us were completely astounded to receive this gift from our beloved Khalifa.”***



### **A life of service**

Another person with whom I was able to spend some time was *Sadiq Ahmad Munawar (73)*, a long serving Missionary of the Jamaat, who was currently serving as the Missionary-in-charge in French Guyana.

Sadiq sahib told me that he had qualified from Jamia Ahmadiyya Rabwah in 1969 and was later posted in Mauritius for thirteen years, followed by Congo where he was able to establish the Jamaat Mission for the first time in 1984. Thereafter, in 1996 he was sent by the Jamaat to establish a Mission in Madagascar before returning to Pakistan for some years and then finally in 2012 he was sent to French Guyana.

Speaking with exemplary English, Sadiq sahib told me of how he came to be a *Waqf-e-Zindighi* (life devotee). He said:

***“I am from a very ordinary working class family in Pakistan and my father was totally illiterate and could not even sign his own name. However, I am truly fortunate that he presented me to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (ra) and asked him to accept me as a Waqf-e-Zindighi. That decision meant that from a position of the lowest of the low, I was raised to a throne, as I have spent my life serving Khilafat.”***

Sadiq sahib continued:

***“I was 15 or 16 when I entered Jamia and at that time I still could not even read the Holy Quran properly. Yet, after nine or ten years I qualified from Jamia with a good position. Then, in November 1970, I was sent on***

*my first posting and my father, beaming with pride, came to see me off at the train station. Hazrat Mir Daud sahib (ra), who I considered my mentor, was also present and he said to my father that 'Your life's hard work of labour has been rewarded today'. I will never forget those words."*

I asked Sadiq sahib what it was like to be sent by Khalifatul Masih to a country where previously no Jamaat existed and be given the daunting task of establishing one.

Sadiq sahib said:

*"When you get told to uproot and move to a new country, you do feel very scared by the weight of responsibility. Similarly, you have to get used to a new culture, language and learn the ways of the country. However, at every step we are protected by the prayers of Khalifatul Masih and I have seen first-hand how they have helped me over the years"*

Sadiq sahib continued:

*"Over the years, the great status of Khilafat has continued to dawn upon me and I have seen how the Khalifa is with every Ahmadi without distinction. There have been so many miracles which I have seen achieved through the prayers of Khilafat. These have increased my own faith and of those around me. For instance, in Congo, there was an African man who became an Ahmadi. He was considering divorcing his wife because they had been married for four years and had not had children. I told him not to dissolve the marriage because he was now an*

***Ahmadi and had the prayers of Khalifatul Masih and would be blessed with children.”***

Sadiq sahib further narrated that he told the African man, that he should tell his wife who was a Christian, that if she now became pregnant she should accept Islam.

Sadiq sahib said:

***“I wrote to Khalifatul Masih and begged for his prayers and informed him I had very confidently told this African man that due to the prayers of Khilafat they would have children. Alhamdolillah, Huzoor did pray and, as a result, within just a few weeks, the woman, who was previously barren, become pregnant and they were blessed with a son. Later they had two more sons and a daughter. The wife accepted Ahmadiyyat and the husband is now a very senior member of the Jamaat there.”***

Speaking of the personal sacrifices that are sometimes required of Missionaries, Sadiq sahib gave a personal example. He said:

***“In Congo, in particular, life was very difficult and it is not an exaggeration to say that occasionally even my life was at risk. When I was posted there my wife was pregnant and so could not join me. Thus, the first time I met my son was when he was three and a half years. At that time the means of communication were much more difficult than today and so when I finally saw my little boy at the airport for the first time he would not come to me as he considered me to be a stranger.”***

Sadiq sahib told me that he chose to retire in 2006 but Huzoor had not accepted his retirement and said that it is better for Missionaries to continue to serve, rather than to retire. Upon this, he did not think twice and continued his service and remained an active Missionary.

My conversation with Sadiq sahib seemed set to end at least five times before it finally did. Every time we said '*salam*', he would think of something else to tell me and his style of talking was very chatty and warm.

Finally, as our time together did end, Sadiq sahib said:

***"I have been a Waqf-e-Zindighi for most of my life and if I have learned one thing it is that Khalifatul Masih is a 'roof' for our Jamaat and as long as we stay under it, we will stay within his shade and be saved from any problems or worries."***

### **A model of humility**

Another person attending the German Jalsa was *Anwar Ahmad (61)*, a Missionary, who was serving in Jamaat offices in Rabwah.

He described how meeting Huzoor was ***"the equivalent of a million times reward for any sacrifices we have ever made or any tough times we passed through"***.

Thereafter, Anwar sahib told me about seeing Huzoor in Rabwah, before he was elected as Khalifatul Masih.

Anwar sahib said:

*"I remember we had our National Shura in Pakistan and there was a formal dinner arranged and I was given the duty to greet the guests. Most of the senior people were coming in cars and so I was expecting Huzoor also to come in a car, as he was Nazir-e-Ala, but with great humility, Huzoor walked to the event. As I saw him walk with such humility, I felt something inside me telling me he was a spiritual king. When I went home that night I even told my family that the way Nazir-e-Ala was walking had left a deep impression upon me."*

Thereafter, Anwar sahib narrated his observations of Huzoor's administration and leadership in Rabwah. He said:

*"Before Khilafat, I was a witness to the fact that even back then, Huzoor's method was to guide us with love and he did not scold us or show severity. Also, if people came with genuine requests for help, he would always assist and never reject. In this regard, I think Huzoor is very much like his father, respected Hazrat Mirza Mansoor Ahmad sahib."*

Anwar sahib continued:

*"When I was first appointed in Rabwah, Huzoor's father was Nazir-e-Ala and I went to him with a written request for quarters to live in. In response, Hazrat Mian sahib responded by saying the demand for homes far exceeded the number of quarters available. However, after saying this he immediately signed and approved my application."*

***This is the same style that I also saw in beloved Huzoor before Khilafat, whereby he would show love and kindness but at the same time would guide us about the realities and limitations of the Jamaat. Thus, all I can say is that even before Khilafat, Huzoor was an exemplary leader and guide.”***

### **Emotions of Ahmadis**

Another family to meet Huzoor that day was *Mubarak Ahmad Warraich (42)*, his wife and daughters. The family was originally from Bashirabad in Pakistan.

Mubarak sahib told me that he had personally been the victim of persecution in Pakistan.

He said on one occasion in Karachi, anti-Ahmadiyya opponents tried to fire at him but thankfully missed, whilst on another occasion, he was attacked in his office and beaten severely.

Reflecting on those incidents, Mubarak sahib said:

***“The opponents might think they will scare us into leaving the Jamaat but every time they attack us it increases our faith. Today, me and my family are safe here in Germany and I have successful businesses and this is all due to the blessings of staying attached to the Jamaat. Above all, today Allah granted us the greatest possible reward when He enabled us to spend a few moments in the company of beloved Huzoor.”***

Mubarak sahib's daughter, Alishba (13) excitedly added:

***"When I was in Huzoor's office, I felt as though I was on MTA because normally I only see Huzoor on MTA! I feel so lucky to have met him!"***

Another person to meet Huzoor was *Mir Laiq Mahmood Tahir (51)*, who was originally from Sialkot but had lived in Germany for over thirty years.

When I met him, Mahmood sahib had just met Huzoor for the first time since 2003 and speaking about the meeting, he said:

***"In my first Mulaqat in 2003, I could not bring myself to speak in front of Huzoor and today again I could not speak because when you see him you realise your weaknesses. Yet, even if I could not speak, I am certain the blessings of being close to Huzoor will last forever."***

Speaking of the change he had seen in the Jamaat's exposure externally, during the Fifth Khilafat, Mahmood sahib said:

***"I have lived here for more than 30 years but the change in the past ten to twelve years has been incredible in terms of how the rest of the world is seeing our Jamaat. Through the media and due to Huzoor's different tours, people now know who the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is and, here in Germany, I have seen how people view us positively. I honestly feel that we are on the cusp of a new dawn in the spread of Islam in the West. We all feel it. When people see or hear Khalifa-Waqt, no matter their religion or belief, they are all captivated and amazed."***

### **An emotional Khadim**

Later that morning, I met a young Ahmadi man, *Muhammad Idris (29)* from Sialkot, Pakistan.

Over the years, I have met countless people who have been unable to control their emotions, as they described their love for Khilafat and their meetings with Huzoor to me.

At first, I used to find it difficult to control my own emotions when I met such people, however over the years I have learned to keep my own emotions in check.

Yet, meeting Muhammad Idris sahib moments after he had met Huzoor for the first time was very, very different.

During our meeting, I saw a fully grown man, reduced to tears, weeping constantly, repeatedly wiping tears away from his eyes, only for them to be replaced by new ones.

We talked for only ten minutes, yet during that time, on five separate occasions, I told him that we should stop because I did not want to upset him.

However each time, he said that he considered it is his duty to share his emotions so that those Ahmadis who were deprived of meeting Huzoor, could at least read and learn about the blessings of Khilafat.



Crying like a lost and confused child, Muhammad Idris said:

***“I could never ever have imagined that a sinful person like me could meet the most pure person in the world. I actually came to Germany last year and requested a Mulaqat but my application was not successful. Soon after, I saw a dream in which I met Huzoor and he told me to purify myself further. After seeing that dream, I was grief-stricken as I realised that I was not ready to meet Huzoor and so for two months, every day and night, I bowed down before Allah and sought His forgiveness.”***

Muhammad Idris told me that when he had finally met Huzoor that morning, he told him of his dream.

Muhammad Idris said:

***“Upon hearing my dream, Huzoor put his hand on me and said ‘Allah fazl karay ga’, meaning Allah will help and bless me.”***

After repeating Huzoor’s words to me, Muhammad Idris broke down once again. I grabbed hold of his arm, as I was worried that in his emotion he would fall down.

Upon slightly composing himself, Muhammad Idris said:

***“Abid sahib, I have tried my best to control my emotions in front of you but I simply cannot because I cannot believe that I am amongst those who Allah has chosen to meet the Khalifa-Waqt. I can never ever be grateful***

***enough to Allah. In the world today there is no other person, except Khalifatul Masih, who has any value or significance.”***

Muhammad Idris continued:

***“My mother was the daughter of a Darvesh from Qadian and when I was young she used to say that if I was to learn one thing from her it should be that I should write regularly to Huzoor. Thus, since childhood, I have had the habit of writing to Huzoor at least once a week and I swear that the prayers I have received from Huzoor in his replies have saved my life.”***

As he walked away, I took a moment to compose myself. I reminded myself that the tears that I had witnessed first-hand were not tears of grief but of immense joy.

His tears were a reflection of the all-consuming love of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya. His tears were a demonstration of the personal relationship that every sincere Ahmadi Muslim has with Khilafat.

His tears were testimony to the truth of Khilafat, as I firmly believed that only someone who is from God could elicit such emotions in the hearts of his followers.

### **A blessed few days**

We had reached 24 August, the day before the start of Jalsa, and so in the morning, I gathered my things as we would be travelling to Karlsruhe later in the day, where the Jalsa was being held.

With the Grace of Allah, the first part of Huzoor's tour had reached its conclusion. During the week, Huzoor had inaugurated a Mosque, met journalists and media and met countless Ahmadis.

It had been a week filled with emotion and blessings. As we got ready to depart for Karlsruhe, I had no doubt that the final few days of the tour would prove even more so.

Over the next few days, Huzoor would address the Jalsa Germany on various occasions and hold meetings with delegations from Europe and much further afield.

### **End of Part 1**

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