

## Report Mid North East Regional Ijtema, June 26<sup>th</sup> 2010

Alhamdulillah, Mid North East Region had a very successful Ijtema on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2010, at Baitul Hadi Mosque of Central New Jersey Majlis. The theme was: Truthfully Following Allah's Commandments in the Holy Qur'an. Over 200 Lajna and Nasirat attended the event. For the first time we had three parallel programs: One for the Nasirat, second for the youth (ages 15-25) and the third for older Lajna members. The day started and ended with combined sessions, but for the rest of the day the three groups had their age appropriate and interest orientated programs. Alhamdulillah, this format was really liked and enjoyed by all.

**Lajna Program:** All Majaalis presented very informative discourse on four very important Qur'anic injunctions: "salaat", "mimma razukna hum yunfekoon", "amar bil ma'arof, nahee anil unkar" and "sisterhood, ceasing backbiting & forgiveness"; the format varied from Quiz to panel discussion to real life scenarios with audience enthusiastic participation. This was followed by a presentation guiding the mothers of the Ahmadi youth growing up in American culture; how to listen, assist and answer their questions. After salaat and lunch break, a movie on domestic violence was shown and a presentation was given on this topic by Sister Amtul Noor, a member of DV committee. Then per national directive all Majaalis presented a Tehrik-e-Jadid demand and questionnaire in various formats.

**Nasirat Program:** Nasirat of all ages presented the same four Qur'anic commandments as Lajna, but all done by them and material easier to understand for their ages. Then they had an open question/answer session. Following the salaat and lunch break they had a fun filled afternoon doing arts & crafts and games. Afterward the Nasirat had a very exciting quiz competition with Lajna as audience.

**Youth Program:** Youth started their day with an "Identity Workshop" that helped them to learn to be a proud Ahmadi Muslim American. This was followed by an enjoyable interactive activity entitled "Attributes of an Ahmadi". Then they wrote "gratitude letters" to Hazur (aba) expressing their gratefulness to Khilafat. Following the letter writing youth participated in a "sustainable art activity" in which they made a tote bag out of a used t-shirt, with the intention of donating them at Jalsa to raise money for Sayyedna Bilaal Fund. Youth joined Lajna for the domestic violence movie and the presentation. Then they polished their Tabligh skills in the form of "Tabligh Tag" activity and religious knowledge in the form of a quiz.

Alhamdulillah, we had great participation, enjoyed learning and enhanced sisterhood; despite being a long day kids were smiling till the end and some youth reported they did not check their cell phones all day! We all left with huge sense of gratitude to Allah Almighty for our ability to hold such gatherings, while so many of our brethren in many countries are unable to do so. May Allah be their solace till the time they can enjoy such Ijtemas as we did. Ameen Allahumma Ameen.