

Where There Is a Will, There Is a Way

Zafar Malik, San Jose, CA

Many families who immigrate to the U.S. face difficult circumstances in their new country in the beginning. I am a recent immigrant to the U.S. For the benefit of others, I am sharing my experience in terms of challenges I encountered upon my arrival in the U.S. and how, by the Grace of Allah, I was able to overcome them.

Upon my arrival in the U.S., I faced a very difficult situation. Being a senior citizen, I found myself quite unfit in the new society and thought that it was the end of my active life; I had been working in a responsible position in Karachi, Pakistan before I left for the U.S. Reflecting upon my situation, I then thought that being an Ahmadi, I must contribute to the Jama'at and my community and should not sit idle. My journey started with a lot of prayers to Almighty Allah and regular letters to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah be his helper) for prayers for having strength to become a useful person. Alhamdulillah, now I am a very busy person doing a lot of work in my community—serving humanity in different areas. Some of the work I am involved in is as follows.



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I started opening our mosque and the attached library and compiled a list of all the books available in the library—more than one thousand—and ensured their proper placement in the shelves.

I made concerted effort in getting driver's license for my mobility. Alhamdulillah, I received my driver's license and now I own a car.

Simultaneously, I registered myself as a volunteer in Seven Trees Community Center, San Jose, and started serving food to seniors and helping them in other ways. This left a very positive impression on people and they started taking interest in me. This provided me an opportunity to politely introduce Islam and Ahmadiyyat to them and dispel misconceptions about Islam.

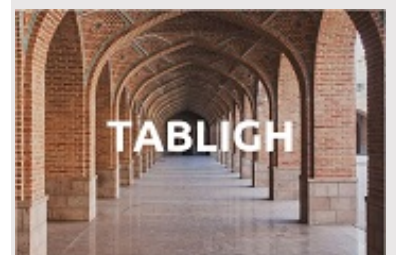
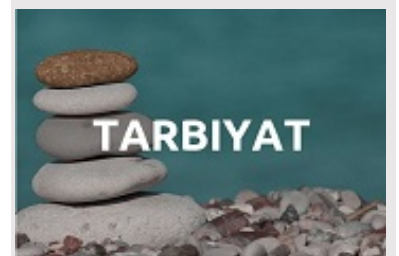
I also started coaching citizenship classes to a Vietnamese group at the above-mentioned community center. In appreciation of my services towards the community, I was awarded the Best Volunteer certificate.

I also became a volunteer at Seven Trees Public Library and helped them in holding book sale events at different occasions that provided me another opportunity to interact with different people.

I also continued volunteering for our Jama'at activities such as attending Tabligh stall at a local flea market and participating in preparing and serving food to homeless people in association with other religious groups.

Currently, I am working in JobLink office as a Job Assistance Coach at Sacred Hearts Community Service helping jobless people to find jobs and helping them in other areas of human services such as clothing, food pantry, etc. At the community center, I am also trying to learn Spanish from my fellow staff as well as taking computer classes to further enhance my skills.

By way of all these human services, I feel satisfaction and thankfulness to Almighty Allah. I would like to say to my fellow senior Ahmadi brothers not to give in to the odds and be a productive part of the Jama'at and society. Not only will this keep you active by serving the less privileged persons of the society, it will also provide a way of Tabligh of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. May God help us to succeed in our endeavors and give us the strength to serve the mankind. Amin.



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A Helper of Allah Passes Away

Hasan Abdullah of Detroit Majlis passed away on January 30, 2015, Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un ("Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.") [The Holy Qur'an, 2:157].

William Henry Warlick accepted the call of the Messiah delivered from the other side of the world in the 70s. He became Hasan Abdullah and remained devoted to his new faith till his last breath. He remained a key member of the Detroit Jama'at.

Brother Hasan Abdullah had many qualities and was a devoted Ahmadi Muslim. He loved the Holy Qur'an and would recite it regularly. He told one of the Jama'at members that he recited portions of Chapter Al-Kahaf daily. He was extremely regular in attending Jumu'ah Prayer. He used to call Adhan in a very beautiful way that the Jama'at members still remember. He would be the first one in the Mosque and would offer Nawafil (supererogatory Prayer) and recite the Holy Qur'an before anyone arrived.

Once he was ill and admitted to the hospital. He was discharged on Friday. He told his son that he wanted to go to the Mosque before going home. Upon his insistence, the son brought him to the mosque. He offered Jumu'ah Prayer and then went to his home. After the mosque in Detroit was burnt, he offered his house for Jumu'ah Prayers and members of the Jama'at used to gather at his house for Jumu'ah.



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He was a recipient of the Lifelong Service Award of Majlis Ansarullah, USA. He remained dedicated to the service of Islam and humanity to his last breath. He would always welcome members of the Jama'at to his home and his excitement would be evident from his broad and warm smile. Not too long ago, when some of the Detroit Jama'at members had the blessing of visiting and praying with him, he continuously recited Surah Fatiha in his melodious voice.

According to his wishes, his funeral and burial was held in Muslim tradition and he was buried in the Ahmadiyya portion of Mt. Hope Cemetery near Detroit on Thursday, February 5, 2015. May Allah bless him and elevate his status in the hereafter. Amin.

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