



Ansar Connection

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We are the Helpers of Allah.

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How Ansar Ijtima Transformed a First Year Nasir

Imran Hayee, Na'ib Sadr Saff Dom

Dear Ansar Brothers,
As-Salamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah

Let me proudly share the story of Lamin Jagne from Minnesota. He was born and raised in an Ahmadi family in Gambia, moved to the U.S. in his early 30s and has been a member of the Minnesota Jama'at since then.

He turned 40 two years ago. Last year (2015) was his first year as a Nasir. Most of the early last year, he did not attend any Ansar meeting and many of us did not even know that he had become a Nasir. He did not use to regularly attend Jama'at meetings either but was very regular in offering Jumu'ah Prayer.

Sometime, in late August of last year, he learned from a Friday announcement that 2015 Ansar national Ijtima was to be held on Sep 18-20. He also looked at the Ijtima poster and decided to give it a try. He booked his ticket just a week before the Ijtima.

When I first saw Lamin at Baitur Rahman Mosque on the evening of Friday, the first day of Ijtima, in the dining marquee, my heart filled with joy. He was enjoying a casual conversation with a few other Gambian-American Ahmadi brothers who had traveled from all over the country to attend the Ijtima.



Lamin Jagne

What's new on the website

- National Ijtima Program
- 2015 National Ijtima Pictures
- 2015 National Ijtima Recap Video
- Ijtima Accommodation Options

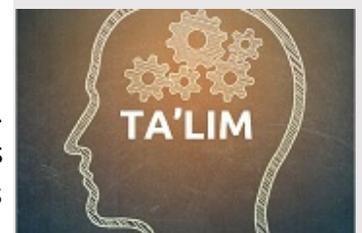
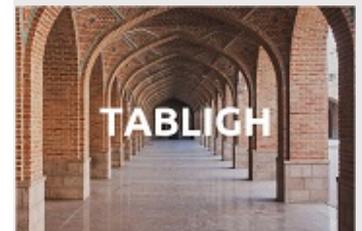




Left to right: Lamin Gassama, Imran Hayee, and Lamin Jagne having a brotherly moment at 2015 Ansar national Ijtima

I asked Lamin about his feelings after attending the first day of Ijtima. He remarked, "So far what I have seen is really impressive." This was his first ever Ansar Ijtima as he had just become a Nasir, the previous year.

I met him a couple of times again on Saturday and he expressed the same delight and reaffirmed his feelings that he had been truly enjoying the Ijtima. I asked him if he could name any one thing that he liked in particular. He said, "It's not one thing, it's everything." He told me that he loved the opening ceremony, the interactive workshops, hospitality, and meeting with so many brothers.



A few days after the Ijtima, when I saw him on Eid at Nusrat Mosque, Minnesota, I asked him again about his overall experience at the Ijtima. He replied, "I have been to many Khuddam Ijtima'at but this one was way, way better".

After attending the Ansar Ijtima in September 2015, he started attending a few of Ansar and Jama'at meetings. He even brought his wife and children to some of the events at the mosque. The Ansar Ijtima acted as a stimulus to transform Lamin's heart and soul.

The last question that I asked Lamin on Eid was if he would like to attend next year's Ijtima. Without hesitation, he replied, "There was nothing which could stop him to attend." Insha'allah, there will be no hurdle and if any, Allah will remove that by His sheer Grace.

A couple of weeks ago, when I spoke to Lamin again about Ijtima, he was still with the same spirit and was making plans to attend the Ijtima on Sep. 23-25, 2016.

When you see Lamin at the Ijtima this year, please give him a big hug. Also look around in your Majlis; there may be many more Lamin Jagne's out there. Reach out to them. Convey the message. Allah will do the rest as He is the One Who changes the hearts.

Share this story:     

National Ijtima Registration Week August 15 - 21

We are celebrating the National Ijtima registration week from August 15-21 with a goal to reach at least 1000 registrations by August 21st. During these days, we will send you a daily update.

[Register Today!!!](#)

Keep in Mind the Child and Dependent Care Credit This Summer

Dawood Munir, Houston

Day camps are common during the summer months. Many parents enroll their children in a day camp or pay for day care so they can work or look for work. If this applies to you, your costs may qualify for



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a federal tax credit. Here are 10 things to know about the Child and Dependent Care Credit:

1. **Care for Qualifying Persons.** Your expenses must be for the care of one or more qualifying persons. Your dependent child or children under age 13 generally qualify.
2. **Work-related Expenses.** Your expenses for care must be work-related. In other words, you must pay for the care so you can work or look for work. This rule also applies to your spouse if you file a joint return. Your spouse meets this rule during any month they are a full-time student. They also meet it if they are physically or mentally incapable of self-care.
3. **Earned Income Required.** You must have earned income. Earned income includes wages, salaries, and tips. It also includes net earnings from self-employment. Your spouse must also have earned income if you file jointly. Your spouse is treated as having earned income for any month that they are a full-time student or incapable of self-care.
4. **Joint Return if Married.** Generally, married couples must file a joint return. You can still take the credit, however, if you are legally separated or living apart from your spouse.
5. **Type of Care.** You may qualify for the credit whether you pay for care at home, at a daycare facility, or at a day camp.
6. **Credit Amount.** The credit is worth between 20 and 35 percent of your allowable expenses. The percentage depends on your income.
7. **Expense Limits.** The total expense that you can use in a year is limited. The limit is \$3,000 for one qualifying person or \$6,000 for two or more.
8. **Certain Care Does Not Qualify.** You may not include the cost of certain types of care for the tax credit, including:
 - Overnight camps or summer school tutoring costs.
 - Care provided by your spouse or your child who is under age 19 at the end of the year.
 - Care given by a person you can claim as your dependent.
9. **Keep Records and Receipts.** Keep all your receipts and records for when you file taxes next year. You will need the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the care provider. You must report this information when you claim the credit on [Form 2441](#), Child and Dependent Care Expenses.
10. **Dependent Care Benefits.** Special rules apply if you get dependent care benefits from your employer.

Keep in mind this credit is not just a summer tax benefit. You may be able to claim it at any time during the year for qualifying care. IRS [Publication 503](#), Child and Dependent Care Expenses, provides complete details on all the rules. Get it anytime on IRS.gov.

Source: [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov)

Additional IRS Resources: [Tax Topic 602](#) - Child and Dependent Care Credit

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Send us your stories of brotherhood, Ijtima memories, or any other inspiring experience that we can share with Ansar brothers via this e-newsletter.

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