



Ansar Connection

A biweekly e-newsletter of Majlis Ansarullah, USA

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We are the Helpers of Allah.

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A Faith-Inspiring Bai'at

Naseer Alam, North Jersey

I noticed a stranger at Friday Prayer in the North Jersey mosque. Noticing a new face, I got closer to him and introduced myself. I learned that he was Mr. Giovanni from Bogota, Columbia and was on a business trip to the U.S. On inquiring, he mentioned that he was dissatisfied with his Catholic belief. He was surfing the Internet and was introduced to Islam by Mr. Nouman, an Ahmadi from Virginia, who met him on a blog. He was attracted to it but could not get hold of any Ahmadi as there were no mission house /Jamaat Centre in Columbia. It seemed that Mr. Giovanni had already accepted Ahmadiyyat at heart as he already had a downloaded Bai'at form with him and was ready for a Bai'at. He told me that he did not pray in the Catholic way on the funeral of his mother a month ago.

He found the address of Baitul Wahid, Hawthorne, NJ and came to attend Friday Prayer. I gave him a cap to cover his head. He wanted to offer the Friday Prayer but didn't know how to do it. I asked him to pray in his own words. He offered Jumu'ah Prayer in congregation and followed the motions.

After Jumu'ah Prayer, he had a short meeting with Hafiz Samiullah Sahib, local Jama'at's President, and expressed his desire to do the Bai'at but Hafiz Sahib told him that since he was in the U.S. for a few days it would be better to get familiar with the Jama'at in person before signing a Bai'at form. He agreed, and it was decided that he would enjoy visiting some sights on Saturday and I would bring him back to Baitul Wahid on Sunday for the monthly meeting of North Jersey Jama'at.

On Saturday, he had to move to Brooklyn. Since Brooklyn was quite far from North Jersey, I advised him to go to the Brooklyn mosque. I connected him through WhatsApp with Saifullah Khalid Sahib, North Jersey Tabligh Secretary, who introduced Mr. Giovanni to Brooklyn Tabligh Secretary. On the following Friday, January 12, 2018, Mr. Giovanni took Bai'at at the age of 34 years, Alhamdulillah.

A few days later, I contacted him on WhatsApp and he replied: "Wa'alaikum assalam Naseer...Reading again Jesus in India and understanding more things about Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, peace be upon him. I confess I haven't been able to pray five times, but I do it and it gives me peace. I pray in Spanish mixed with Arabic and English. My friend Eakan told me that is a process and I should keep trying."

I had always heard stories about Almighty Allah Himself guiding people towards the Jama'at but this was the first time I myself witnessed such an event which was very faith-inspiring. I wish to visit this "righteous spirit" in Bogota one day.

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Tips for Successful Tax Returns Filing

The tax season is upon us! The IRS began accepting tax returns on Monday, January 29. Here are some helpful tips for filing your tax return.

What's new on the website

- Monthly Meeting Material
- Ta'lim and Tarbiyat Handbook 2018
- An Upward Journey
- 2018 Ansar National Departmental Goals



Gather all your tax documents

Before you file your taxes, you'll need to collect all your 2017 tax documents. If you are an employee, that means your W-2; if you are a freelancer, you may have multiple 1099 forms. In some cases, you may have other statements, such as income earned from an interest-bearing savings account or interest paid on a loan, or even [taxable bitcoin gains](#).

The IRS recommends e-filing and choosing direct deposit

The IRS says [the fastest way to get your tax refund](#) is the method already used by most taxpayers: filing electronically and selecting direct deposit as the method for receiving your refund.

The deadline to file your tax return is April 17

This year, April 15 falls on a Sunday and Washington, DC celebrates [Emancipation Day](#) on April 16 so the [deadline to file your taxes](#) falls on Tuesday, April 17.

To protect against tax fraud, file your tax return at your earliest

Tax season presents plenty of opportunity for would-be identity thieves. A stolen Social Security number can be used to file a fraudulent tax return and refund request, but it is not the only tax scam out there. The IRS keeps track of the [most common tax-related crimes](#), and the list is long and varied.

The best way to protect against tax scams—especially potential identity theft—is to file your tax return as soon as possible.

The US Department of Justice says the IRS [never discusses personal tax issues](#) through unsolicited emails or texts, or over social media. Be wary if you are contacted by someone claiming to be from the IRS who says you owe money. When the IRS needs to get in touch with a taxpayer, standard practice is to [send a letter via the US Postal Service](#). If you receive an unexpected and suspicious email from the IRS, forward it to phishing@irs.gov.

You can file your taxes for free if you know where to look

Many online tax services offer to file your federal taxes—and sometimes state taxes—for free if your income was less than \$66,000 in 2017. You can check your options using the [IRS Free File lookup](#).

You can also download the [IRS2Go app](#) to find free tax-filing assistance, check your refund status, or make a payment.

You should receive your tax refund within 21 days of filing

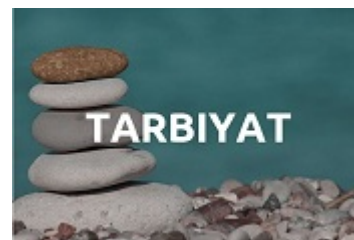
Your refund should hit your bank account within three weeks of filing online, assuming you opted to receive it via direct deposit. Often, you will get your money even faster.

If you owe taxes and cannot pay when you file

If you can't afford to pay your tax bill, don't get panic and at the same time don't ignore the situation. The IRS offers [reasonable payment plans](#) at much lower interest rates than most banks. You may even be able to settle the bill for less than you owe, called an [offer in compromise](#), or [request a deferment](#) until you can make a payment.

Keep copies of your old tax returns for at least 3 years

You don't have to save your tax returns forever. The IRS recommends holding onto copies for at least three years — the typical length of time the IRS would look back [if you happen to get audited](#).



Most audits cover returns filed over the past two years, but the IRS can go back further if the situation calls for it. But audits shouldn't be cause for worry for most taxpayers. Fewer than 1% of tax returns are audited by the IRS.

When you dispose of old tax returns, make sure to properly shred the documents to [protect against identity theft](#).

Source [IRS.gov](#)

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