



Ansar Connection

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We are the Helpers of Allah.

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Central Jersey Majlis Team Rides for Peace through the Great Alleghen Passage (GAP) trail

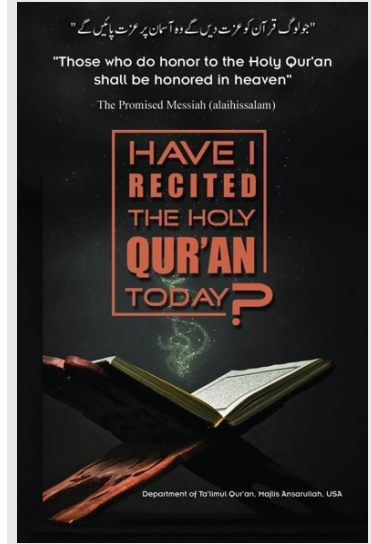
By: Masroor Sajid (Zaim, Central Jersey Majlis)

There is an increased interest and activity level around the US for bicycling – long and short distances. After last year's experience of riding the bikes from Austin to Houston where the national Ijtima was held, there are more group events being organized.



One such group activity was recently organized by the Ansar members of Central Jersey Majlis. This was prompted by Huzoor's (aba) recent meeting with Majlis Ansarullah Australia broadcasted via "This week with Huzoor (aba)". He urged the Ansar to make connections with local biking clubs. This way, Huzoor pointed out, they would partake in our charity work as well. Also, this could be a great Tabligh opportunity as well. Huzoor (aba) further guided them to have special vests made with the message of "Love for All", "Peace and Harmony", "Help the Poor" or something against the risk of world war printed on them. Taking jama'at brochures on bike trips can be used to further introduce the true message of Islam, Ahmadiyyat.

Saying Labbaik to Huzoor's (aba) guidance, seven members from Central



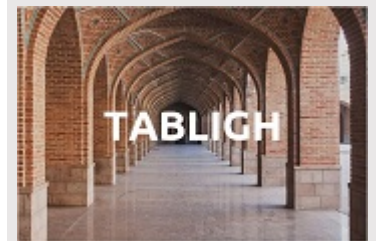
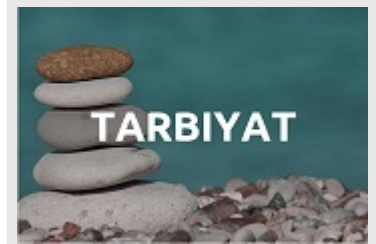
Jersey Majlis set out to complete the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) trail. A 150-mile trip from Pittsburgh, PA to Cumberland, MD. The group drove four and a half hours from Central Jersey to downtown Pittsburgh the night before and left their hotel early Friday morning on June 16th, 2023. The plan was to finish the trip by Sunday afternoon. They made their way through downtown streets and bridges towards the official start of the GAP trail - The Point State Park Fountain which is located at the confluence of the Allegheny & Monongaheela River forming the Ohio river.

The start of Friday's leg of the trip began on a paved road lined with colorful graffiti. The trail was a smooth paved path for most of the day flanked by the river on one side and trees on the other. Although the temperatures were quite warm, the trees provided a canopy for most of the day.



The weather forecast was for two days of heavy rain. But, as Zaim sahib reflected upon sending a letter to beloved Huzoor (aba) for prayers before the event, the storm remained ahead of us by a few hours by the grace of Allah. We only experienced 10-15 minutes of a light drizzle, Alhamdulillah. After completing about 20 miles the group decided on having lunch and offering the Friday Prayers in the small town of Boston, PA. It is here where we first witnessed the great wisdom of Huzoor (aba) from a few months ago.

The riders stopped by a local visitor center and had the opportunity to engage some people. As Huzoor (aba) had advised, having 'Love for All Hatred for None' printed on the shirts provided a great opportunity to introduce the message of Islam, Ahmadiyyat. Having some Jama'at brochures on hand also provided something for them to explore our message further. We were also able to tell them about our fundraising activity for the model village in Africa project. After hearing us explain the model village project a gentleman donated \$20 towards this cause. Zaim sahib was able to issue a receipt from Humanity First to him in a few minutes.



The next leg of the trail was now compact gravel and the surrounding area had become more rural. The group had made reservations for a hotel right on the trail and was thankful to have completed the first day as scheduled. After a hearty dinner everyone retired for the night to recover from the day long ride.

The second day began with a riverside breakfast at the back of the hotel. After seeking permission from management and informing them about our bike trip & its goals, we placed some 'Muslims for Peace' pamphlets and Huzoor's 'World Crisis and Pathways to Peace' book in the hotel lobby. After checking their equipment and loading all supplies the group set out for the final 40 miles of the day. Everyone agreed that this stretch of the trail was the most scenic as it featured amazing landscapes with many bridges and some waterfalls. The group met with the support truck in the town of Ohiopyle. It was a small town with a lot of activity. People stop by here for various water activities such as white water rafting and kayaking.

While passing through main street another quick Tabligh opportunity presented itself where we had the chance to distribute more of our flyers. The day ended as we reached the Gingerbread house, a popular bed and breakfast stop on the trail. The members enjoyed a tasty barbecue before turning in for the night.

As the final leg of the trip began the trail had a steep uphill for a few miles and then the next 15-20 miles were all downhill - a welcome change after the 2,500 feet elevation the previous two days. After completing the final 20 miles the riders made it to Cumberland, MD around 3:30pm - the official end of the GAP trail. For most of the riders this was the first long ride they took part in. Many achieved their personal best for miles traveled in a single day. Alhamdulillah, this was an amazing three-day experience that strengthened our brotherhood and gave confidence to those new to the sport.

An Angel appears and helps...at a gas station.

By: Abdul Ahad Chowdhury (Los Angeles, CA Majlis)



I wanted to share an experience I had that showed me Allah listens to our prayers anywhere, anytime.

It was around 1992, and I was a substitute teacher in San Bernadino, CA (east of Los Angeles). I was out on the road in hot summer days and needed to fill up the car I had borrowed from a friend. As I was maneuvering the car to position it properly for the fill up, suddenly I felt an impact! From my right, a huge station-wagon had attempted to squeeze through the space that was opening in front of my car! The driver was an unsophisticated lady, and she was mad! I was confused and perplexed; since my car had been moving, could I be at fault? In my heart, I appealed to The Protector for help!

My use of gentle, placatory words did no good. The lady said she would call the police, reporting damage to her car and my carelessness! I felt



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helpless.

At that very moment, seemingly out of nowhere, a man appeared, and began to admonish the lady! He had seen what had happened, and threatened this lady that he will report her to the police: He could smell alcohol on her breath, he said. He advised her; to avoid further trouble, she better get lost! The lady immediately drove away!

It reminds me that Allah comes and helps us out of difficult times, we just need to call Him for help. *Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah!*

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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