

## “Message”

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*JazakamAllah* (God bless you),

I greet you all this wintery morning with the warm Islamic prayer of *Assalaamualaykium wa Rahmtullahi wa Barakatahu* Divine peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings, akin to the Hebrew salutation *Shalom Aleikhum*.

I, along with the entire Ahmadiyya Muslim Community CT, express a heartfelt gratitude to the Minister and you all at our neighboring House of Worship for graciously inviting us in fellowship and affinity. Our Baitul Aman House of Peace Mosque dwells in the south end of Meriden. As you may have heard, despite shootings at our Mosque, our hearts and doors are ever open to the public.

It's only when we come together that we loudly illustrate “love for all hatred for none”.

We hope and pray God the Exalted anoints our promising bond with love as we join forces in actualizing peace, liberty and justice for all. Prayers and solidarity are the best tools in transforming and enlightening the surging darkness.

In retrospect, this bridge-building and harmonious relationship amidst faiths is not a novel phenomenon for either of us. It was exemplified, since our inception, by the holy founder of Islam himself, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Let's discover how intimately our faiths are intertwined...

The genesis of Islam essentially goes back to our shared parents Adam and his wife, peace be upon them, and the relationship they upheld with our Creator through the good times and the bad.

Generations ensued evolving spiritually under God's guidance and through His revealed word gifted to His chosen elect from all over the world. These included Noah, Krishna, our father Abraham, Zoroaster, Moses, Lao-tzu, Jesus and countless others, peace be upon them all. As Muslims who believe in the Messiah we understand that religion ultimately reached its summit in Muhammad when it was named Islam by God which was manifested again in our age by Ahmad, peace and blessings be upon them.

It was 1400 years ago in the barren deserts of Arabia that an unlettered orphan known for his integrity received the Divine Call in the midst of Mount Hira.

“Convey thou in the name of thy Lord Who created, Who created man from a clot of blood. Convey! And thy Lord is most generous, who taught man by the pen” (96:2-5).

It was his wife Khadijah, the princess of Quraysh, who reassured him and confirmed his prophetic mission. For further demystification his pious wife Khadija, now mother of the faithful, brought him to her cousin Waraqa Bin Naufal who was a saintly scholar of a similar background to yours; Judeo-Christian. Upon hearing the encounter of Muhammad, Khadijah's Christian cousin recognized he sat in the presence of an appointed Messenger of God, and proceeded to prophesy, "This was the same Angel who is entrusted to reveal Divine secrets whom Allah had sent to Moses. I wish I were young and could live up to the time when your people would turn you out. I fear you'll be treated with hostility; but as long as I remain alive I shall support you fully with everything I have."

Then we have the charming precedent demonstrated by the righteous Judeo-Christian King Negus **Aṣḥama** of 7<sup>th</sup> Century Abyssinia/Ethiopia – When Muslim suffering had reached its limit, the Holy Prophets instructed Muslims to migrate, not fight back. He said “The king of Abyssinia is just and equitable. None are subjected to oppression under his rule.”

In stark contrast to today's Donald Trump, rather than refuse refugees fleeing violence because of their faith, the Christian King graciously and justly afforded refuge to the very first Muslim immigrants who were turned out of their homes.

A prime example of interreligious friendship (precedent) that is all too often overlooked today!

When asked to present verses from the Holy Quran about Jesus, here's what they shared “When the angels said, ‘**O Mary, Allah gives thee glad tidings of a word from Him; his name shall be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary**, honored in this world and in the next, and of those who are granted nearness to God;’” [The Holy Qur'an Aal-e-Imran Chapter 3 : Verse 46](#)

“And the example of **Mary**, the daughter of 'Imran, who guarded her chastity — so We breathed therein of Our Spirit — and she fulfilled in her person the words of her Lord and His Books and was one of the obedient.” [Al-Tahrim Chapter 66 : Verse 13](#)

In fact, not only **Christianity, but Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism** and most other Faiths share a historical and traditional connection with Islam, albeit with defined theological variations, which we celebrate! Nevertheless, we are all connected to the same tree whose source of nourishment is our Single Creator. [Muslims](#) should value, respect, love and serve people of all races, traditions and backgrounds rejecting any notion of racial or ethnic superiority “O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; and we have made you tribes and subtribes that you may know one another. Verily the most honorable among you in the sight of Allah is he who is the most righteous among you. 49:14

It even recognizing followers of various Holy Scriptures as [People of the Book](#) in the Holy Quran.

## How many of you have read the Holy Quran?

I'm sure many of you have picked up the Holy Quran and read it with an open mind, but many have yet to explore and research without bias. If they did, they would read how Islam encompasses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Islam recognizes that no one religion holds a monopoly over salvation because God is most Gracious and ever Merciful. The Holy Quran says “Surely, those who believe and the Jews and the Christians and the Sabians—whichever party from among these truly believes in God and the Last Day and does good deeds shall have their reward with their Lord, and no fear shall come upon them, nor shall they grieve” (2:63). Moreover the Quran forbids compulsion in matters of faith 2:257

Another verse summarizes who we are...

“And strive in the cause of Allah, He has laid no hardship upon you in religion; *so follow* the faith of your father Abraham; He named you Muslims *both* before and in this *Book*, Therefore observe Prayer and pay the Zakat, and hold fast to Allah. He is your Master. An excellent Master and an excellent Helper!”

(The Holy Quran, Surh Al-Hajj Chapter 22: Verse 79)

Islam means peace and transcending on a ladder from a rudimentary state of existence to a moral and finally spiritual being completely resigned to the will of God according to the Holy Quran and True Islam illustrates this. **A real Muslim finds peace in relation to the Universal Creator (HaquqAllah) and fellow creatures, irrespective of life-form (Haquq Al 'Ibad).**

We see Prophet Muhammad saw as the restorer of the original monotheistic faith of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and other divine prophets and messengers...

Early in the Quran God declares...

3. This is a perfect Book; there is no doubt in it; *it is* a guidance for the righteous,

4. Who believe in the unseen and observe Prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them;

5. And who believe in that which has been revealed to thee, and that which was revealed before thee, and they have firm faith in what is *yet* to come.

6. It is they who follow the guidance of their Lord and it is they who shall prosper.

ذٰلِكَ الْكِتٰبُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيْهِ هُدًى  
لِّلْمُتَّقِيْنَ ﴿٣﴾  
الَّذِيْنَ يُؤْمِنُوْنَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَ  
يُقِيمُوْنَ الصَّلٰوةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنٰهُمْ  
يُنْفِقُوْنَ ﴿٤﴾  
وَالَّذِيْنَ يُؤْمِنُوْنَ بِمَا نَزَّلَ لَيْلِكَ وَ  
مَا نَزَّلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ ۗ وَالْآخِرَةُ هُمْ  
يُؤْتُوْنَ ﴿٥﴾  
اُولٰٓئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ ۗ وَاُولٰٓئِكَ  
هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُوْنَ ﴿٦﴾

Principles resonated by both of our faiths.

We see Muhammad's Latest software for religion in the series of evolving faiths revealed by God from Adam to Muhammad

2 major branches but over 73 sects in Islam

5 pillars of Islam (Action) previous qibla of temple of Solomon in Jerusalem

6 articles of faith (Beliefs)

What is our Concept of God?

	<b>Beauty</b>	<b>Majesty</b>	
<b>Inclusive</b>	<b>Allaah, The Living God (Answers Prayers, Communicates, None of God's Attributes ever cease to function)</b>		<b>Exclusive</b>
	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>Masculine</b>	

True Islam categorically rejects all forms of violence, extremism and intolerance and teaches a path of moderation, progresses internal and external peace, justice, freedom to choose, equality and condemns extremism dramatically different to the so called Islamic State which should be called the Imposter State who blindly wage a demented Jihad conveniently disregarding the Holy Quran which boldly announces "Whosoever killed a person ... it shall be as if he had killed all mankind; and whoso saved a life, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind" (5:33).

**So what really is Jihad? It is striving, the internal struggle, to overcome one's Satan who runs in the blood of every offspring of Adam**

**Only defensive war is permitted (called the lesser Jihad) on the conditions clearly laid down in the Holy Quran**

**Let's put Jihad in perspective...the Holy Quran reads....**

**“Permission to fight is given to those against whom war is made, because they have been wronged — and Allah indeed has power to help them — Those who have been driven out from their homes unjustly only because they said, ‘Our Lord is Allah’ — And if Allah did not repel some men by means of others, there would surely have been pulled down cloisters and churches and synagogues and mosques, wherein the name of Allah is oft commemorated. And Allah will surely help one who helps Him. Allah is indeed Powerful, Mighty. “**

**(The Holy Quran, Surah Al-Hajj Chapter 22 : Verses 41-42)**

Alas, Prophet Muhammad prophesied that the Muslim Community, not Islam, would slowly decay and become the worst under heaven. That’s when God would cause the Messiah to return to perform the same function he did before – reignite the spark of love between humanity and their Creator to reunite the two. Both in the Holy Bible and Holy Quran Jesus is recorded to have hinted at his future coming.

“And *remember* when Jesus, son of Mary, said, ‘O children of Israel, surely I am Allah’s Messenger unto you, fulfilling that which is before me of the Torah, and giving glad tidings of a Messenger who will come after me. His name will be **Ahmad**.’ And when he came to them with clear proofs, they said, ‘This is clear enchantment.’” 61:7-8

This is where Ahmadiyyat comes in...Just as Jesus arose in the 14<sup>th</sup> century after the Revelation of the Torah and its laws to Moses, Ahmad was raised in the 14<sup>th</sup> century after the Last Law Bearing Prophet...he had many striking similarities with Jesus...we believe he was sent by God in the spirit and power of Jesus and Muhammad, similar to how Elijah was sent again to the world before the “great and dreadful day of the coming of the Lord” According to Jesus and the Quran that’s who John the Baptist was...

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are Muslims who believe in both Messiahs Jesus of Nazareth and Ahmad of Qadian and we are the only Muslim organization to have a worldwide spiritual not political leader called the Khalifa or Successor of the Messiah aka the true Khalifa of Islam.

AMC was founded by the Promised Messiah Ahmad in 1889 who over a century ago taught us to wage a bloodless intellectual jihad of the inner self and through the pen, education and dialogue The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) has reported to have said: “The ink of the scholar is holier than the blood of the martyr.”

True Jihad can be understood through a verse of the Quran which demands the defense and protection of the weak and oppressed, in self-defense of freedom of conscience and religion not just Islam. Despite vehement persecution, Ahmad taught never to raise a finger in retaliation, but to seek help through “patience and prayer”. From an unknown voice in a remote village called Qadian, the AMC today has spread to over 107 countries with membership exceeding hundreds of millions. We are the single largest and fastest growing group in Islam united under one true peace-loving Khalifa of Islam, and we have done this without the tool of the sword as our 4<sup>th</sup> Khalifa said “force can win territories but not hearts, swords can subdue heads, but not minds”,

when the 3<sup>rd</sup> Khalifa was asked about plans with other he laconic an penetrating response still echoes today “ by winning the hearts with love and service”.

We believe Jesus survived the Cross and was given refuge in the Far East and buried in kashmere according to the analogy he gave of Jonas.

There are only 114 Chapters - one is called Mary (mother of Jesus), another is the family of Imran (grandfather of Jesus), another is the Heavenly Banquet requested by Jesus and his Disciples, another is devoted to the early young Christians who took refuge in the catacombs of Rome after the departure of Jesus and are role models of the faithful in chapter 18...remember there are only 114 and already 4 chapters are connected to Jesus which in itself shows how much love and respect we hold for Jesus, his mother, his cousin John and beyond.

Muhammad said “All prophets are brothers, having different mothers but the same father”

Equality of women,

### **Lets talk about Women and their status in Islam**

**He it is Who has created you from a single soul (*nafsin wahidatin*) , and made therefrom its mate, that he might find comfort and love in her. 7:190**

**It gives *the example of Mary*, the daughter of ‘Imran, who guarded her private parts, says God, so We breathed into her of Our Spirit — and she fulfilled *in her person* the words of her Lord and His Books and was one of the obedient. 66:13”**

**“Heaven lies under the foot of The Mother” Holy Prophet Muhammad, Divine peace be upon him**

Islam advocates and granted the economic rights to women fourteen centuries ago,

While Islam urges both sexes to dress modestly and guard their eyes, women are enjoined to cover their heads and wear an outer garment to conceal their beauty from strangers. Her dress encourages society to focus on her intellectual merit rather than her physical characteristics. By doing this they in effect mirror God Himself Who is hidden behind a metaphorical veil in this world removed only for the beloved and those granted nearness to God.

You’ll find Ahmadi Muslims animating loyalty to country with you, separating of Mosque and state recognizing that justice, not religion, is the determinative factor when governing society. The Messiah alighted to end religious wars, establish justice, morality and peace. He penned over 80 books and demonstrated that God not still exists but continues to honor his chosen elect. Disclosed spiritual and scientific mysteries that were inherent in the Holy Quran, even though he wasn’t formally educated kind of like Jesus

**For example, the Holy Quran disclosed scientific truths 1400 years ago to an unlettered orphan**

- **And We have built the heaven with *Our own* hands, and verily We go on expanding it 51:48**
- **The heavens and the earth were *a closed-up mass*, then We opened them out? And We made from water every living thing. 21:31**
- **Allah is He Who created seven heavens, and of the earth the like thereof.**
- **And among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and *of whatever living creatures He has spread forth in both*. And He has the power to gather them together when He pleases. 42:30**

**As Einstein famously put it “Science without religion is lame, and Religion without Science is blind”**

The Messiah notably warned us of catastrophic outcomes if mankind did not return to God, if mankind did not deal with each other with justice, peace and harmony. Muslims rejected him because they were awaiting, similar to the time of Jesus, a bloody Messiah who would liberate them and destroy the disbelievers, but instead of the sword the Messiah brought prayers and the pen.

Today the fifth successor leads the dynamic community which remains at the forefront of establishing peace between nations and combating radicalization.

Indeed, the Holy Qur’an implores Muslims to promote peace by remaining united, “Hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided; and remember the favour of Allah which He bestowed upon you when you were enemies and He united your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became *as* siblings; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and He saved you from it.” (3:104)

Together we’ve launched and conquered nationwide campaigns like Muslims for peace, life (blood drives), loyalty, stopthecrisis and a new feat called True Islam which encourage all to endorse at [trueislam.com](http://trueislam.com). for more info, please visit [alislam.org](http://alislam.org) or request a free copy of the Holy Quran at [muslimsforpeace.org](http://muslimsforpeace.org)

Our Mosque is always open to you and We look forward to unifying with you again in prayer, righteousness and strengthening our new friendship.

Thank you, Happy New Year and salaam!