Al-Hilal

If I Could Change the World

US $2  A Magazine for Children  2015-1
QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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Cover by Sumera Ahmad

2015 - Issue 1
Dear Reader,

As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

As we look around the world today, we see turmoil because of man’s inhumanity to man. The disorder we see in the world can leave many feeling depressed and helpless. As Ahmadi Muslims, we turn to the Quran as our first source of guidance. We are reminded in Surah Al-Nahl that the solution to racial, class and religious inequalities is justice: “Verily, Allah requires you to abide by justice, and to treat with grace, and give like the giving of kin to kin.” (Verse 91)

As we think about relationships among human beings (as an example, the police and youth, Christians and Muslim, rich and poor), let us remember the example of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The Holy Prophet always exercised justice and was fair in his decisions. This made him unique in a culture known for favoritism and double standards. Our Messenger (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had this to say about those who establish justice:

Abū Huraira narrated that the Messenger of Allah said, “There is a Ṣadaqa to be given for every joint of the human body; and for every day on which the sun rises there is a reward of a Ṣadaqa
(that is, charitable gift) for the one who establishes justice among people.” (Bukhāri)

So as you read on in this issue of Al-Hilal, pay attention to the suggestions our young writers put forth for achieving peace, justice and fairness, and improve health, economy, education, and resource efficiency, and reduce pollution in the world. Many of their solutions embody the principle of justice and the treating of one another as “kin to kin.” May Allah guide these writers so they can put their solutions into practice and create a more harmonious world. Āmīn.

Was-Salām,
Tamara K. Rodney, Al-Hilāl Editorial Staff

**ABC’s of Islam**

Written by Tazeen Aḥmad

ABC's of Islam is a perfect book to introduce your kids to the simple concepts of Islām. Full of colorful illustrations and easy rhymes this book teaches the basic Islāmic beliefs and values, in a fun and easy way, to young children. Paperback: 38 pages. Purchase at www.tazeenahmadbooks.com.
Change depends on the willingness of people to change.

For him (the Messenger) is a succession of angels before him and behind him; they guard him by the command of Allah. Surely, Allah changes not the condition of a people until they change that which is in their hearts. And when Allah wishes to punish a people, there is no repelling it, nor have they any helper beside Him.

(13[Al-Ra’d]:12)

Our responsibility is to point to the right course.

Al-Hilāl
You are the best people raised for the good of mankind; you enjoin what is good and forbid evil and believe in Allah. And if the People of the Book had believed, it would have surely been better for them. Some of them are believers, but most of them are disobedient. (3[Āl ‘Imrān]:111)

Role of personal relationship and compassion in changing people

And remember when Abraham said, ‘My Lord, show me how Thou givest life to the dead.’ He said, ‘Hast thou not believed?’ He said, ‘Yes, but I ask this that my heart may be at rest.’ He answered, ‘Take four birds and make them attached to thyself. Then put each of them on a hill; then call them; they will come to thee in haste. And know that Allah is Mighty, Wise.’

(2[Al-Baqarah]:261)

The committee members on page 2 and a group of reviewers review the magazine before going to press. Their reviews make the magazine what it is. Please send your email address to publications@ahmadiyya.us if you want to help us review the contents before their publication.
The Story of Wild Camels

It is said that the tribes living in Mecca and the territories around, tired of unending blood-feuds, resolved to found an association the purpose of which was to help victims of aggressive and unjust treatment. When the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) heard of this, he gladly joined. Members of this association gave an undertaking in the following terms:

They will help those who were oppressed and will restore them their rights, as long as the last drop of water remained in the sea. And if they do not do so, they will compensate the victims out of their own belongings (Sīrat Ibni Hishām by Imām Suhailī).

It seems that no other member of this association was ever called upon to discharge the undertaking solemnly entered into by members of this association. But opportunity came to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when he had announced his Mission. His worst enemy was Abū Jahl, a chief of Mecca. He preached social boycott and public humiliation of the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). About that time a person from outside came to Mecca. Money was due to him from Abū Jahl, but Abū Jahl refused to pay. He mentioned this to people in Mecca. Some young men, out of sheer mischief, suggested that he should approach the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). They thought that the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would refuse to do anything for fear of the general opposition to him and particularly for fear of the opposition of Abū Jahl. If he refused to help this man, he would be said to have broken his pledge to the association. If, on the other hand, he did not refuse and chose to approach Abū Jahl for the
restitution of this loan, Abū Jahl was certain to turn him away with contempt. This man went to the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and complained to him about Abū Jahl. The Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), hesitating not a minute, stood up, went with the man and knocked at Abū Jahl’s door. Abū Jahl came out and saw that his creditor was standing with the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) mentioned the loan and suggested its payment. Abū Jahl was taken aback and, making no excuses, paid at once. When the other chiefs of Mecca heard of this they reproved Abū Jahl, telling him how weak and self-contradictory he had proved. He preached the social boycott of the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), yet he himself accepted direction from the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and paid a loan on his suggestion. In self-defense, Abū Jahl pleaded that any other person would have done the same. He told them that as he saw the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) standing at his door, he also saw two wild camels standing one on each side, ready to attack. We cannot say what this experience was. Was it a miraculous appearance designed to upset Abū Jahl or was it the awe-inspiring presence of the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) which produced this hallucination? A man hated and oppressed by a whole town had taken the courage to go alone to the leader of that town and demand the restitution of a loan. Maybe this very unexpected sight frightened Abū Jahl and for a moment made him forget what he had sworn to do against the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and forced him to do as the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) suggested (Hishâm). [From Life of Muhammad]
**Across**

2) Attribute of Allah meaning “The Merciful”
4) A peaceful treaty between the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the Quraish
5) Means peace and submission to Allah
7) The final, law-bearing prophet
8) Sect of Islam with the slogan, “Love for all, hatred for none.”
9) Promoted Jihad of the pen, not the sword

**Down**

1) Attribute of Allah meaning “The Ultimate Source of Peace”
3) Surah in Part 30 of the Quran with the verse, “For you is your religion, for me my religion.”
6) Companion of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that saved the slave Bilal from the torture of his master
11

**World Peace**

I A A R X E M W B D T B G K P
G S H K E S V W Z O K N D O J
W C T M I S F O L T I F B W J
O E Z A A R P E D D C G U M T
H K D L E D R E N X H A D M L
K U O E C A I A C T R D D U R
J V D Z N P T Y E T I S H N E
E O W C W S H J Y D S S I L C
M Q E O R P B W O A T E S G I
E P R E P E A C E O I N M D T
D L D M A L S I H X A D U H S
D N T C I L F N O C N N B E U
U S E I R T N U O C I I V I J
N O I T U L O S E R T K I Q X
H I N D U I S M D Y Y V L H D

AHMADIYYA  BUDDHISM  CHRISTIANITY
CONFLICT  COUNTRIES  DOVE
FREEDOM  HINDUISM  ISLAM
JUDAISM  JUSTICE  KINDNESS
LOVE  PEACE  RESOLUTION
RESPECT  TOLERANCE  UNDERSTANDING

**Solutions to Crossword**

**Across:**
2) Rahim.  4) Treaty of Hudaibiyyah.
5) Islam.  7) Muhammad.
8) Ahmadiyya.  9) Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad

**Down:**
1) Salaam.  3) Al Kafirun.  6) Abū Bakr

2015 - Issue 1
Dawn blossoms around the globe, unlike anything we've seen before. Dew drops glisten on blades of green, clouds roll away disrupt our dreams. The promise of a new day's birth the sunshine's embers, in nature's hearth.

"Rise! Rise! The time has come!" Angelic birds sing this song, "You've come so close. You've come so near! Alas! Not many roar at fear. Listen close, to the sounds of the Almighty, Stay far from he who listens blithely. You've all been chosen, to spread afar the word of God the word of our Lord who gives us living day our every need without much pay. Perish your anguish burn your fear. Remember, God Almighty's always here."

By: Soha Malik
Silver Spring MD
Age: 12 years
Everyone in this world deserves to be treated fairly. Allah has created all humans equal. Humans forget this, and in many parts of this world, they treat other fellow humans in an unjust manner. If I were to change something in the world today, it would be the unjust and unfair treatment of human beings.

Wars start because of unfair and unequal treatment of human beings. Wars are not good for anyone. In wars, people die and property is destroyed. Our beloved Khalifatul-Masih V, may Allah be his helper, has made it his mission to spread the message of peace, fairness, and just behavior in the world. He has spoken with world leaders and governments about world peace. He has encouraged them to use their power and work toward having peace in the world. To have peace, it is important that human beings are treated fairly. In conclusion, if I were to bring about a positive change, I would ask everyone to be tolerant, fair and just. This could result in a peaceful world.

By: Rushda Bukhari, Age: 9, Detroit
IF I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD

Today there is a lot of violence in the world for countless reasons, as people are persecuted for their faith, killed for no reason, dying because of hunger and disease. Peace must be restored, and in order to do that I would do three things: set up an international organization that would help the poor countries, do not waste money, and bring criminals to justice.

These three things would help restore peace to the world so that we can all live in peace and harmony.

I would set up an international organization that would help the poor countries get back on their feet. This organization would be made up of wealthy countries like the USA, Luxembourg, France, etc., who would give 30 percent of their crops and monthly profits to the poor and rural areas so that, over the years, the countries would slowly get better until they get stable. Islam states that it is the duty of the wealthy to help the poor and make their society a better place to live. This concept must be applied to the world because, if we do not help them, then eventually the countries would be in the utmost poverty with brutal fighting while we have luxuries. Not only would this happen, but it would also fuel resentment, bitterness, anger and jealousy that would lead to a conflict. The organization would help keep the world in balance politically, economically and socially.
Secondly, I would build green. Building Green is when you take recycled material and build homes and schools, etc. With that, you use energy saving products. In wealthy countries, people waste a lot of resources and it doesn’t help you or the environment. It wastes your money because there are energy saving solutions that do the same job but use less energy. In poor countries, this would be especially helpful because people wouldn’t have to pay a lot and they would be more likely not to waste energy. Today, the cost of having electricity for even a short time is very expensive in most parts of the world, and many people can’t afford it. If we were to put energy saving solutions in the poor areas, people could start to live a better life and they could improve their society step by step.

Finally, I would bring criminals to justice. I would do this because not only do they influence the society negatively, they also cause riots, poverty and, in extreme cases, wars and fighting. The criminals' influence on the society makes for a bad society, and that's why Islam prohibits certain things strictly. Say, you have a ruler in a country that doesn’t make laws that help his people. The country erupts in violence and the ruler is forced to flee for his life. The country becomes better in time and eventually it gets rich and stable. This is an example of a criminal and their political, social and economic influence over the society. If they were brought to justice, then a lot of things would be cleared up and it would be a lot easier to aid the countries.

In conclusion, I would bring criminals to justice, set up an international organization dedicated to helping the poor and the needy and I would build green. The goal would be to achieve world peace so that we can all live in harmony with each other.

By: Aumena Choudhary, Age 12, Central Virginia
If I could change the world, I would give everyone a proper education. Education is knowledge and a tool that can help everyone in the world understand each other better. It can help us accept and appreciate our differences rather than to fight over them.

I believe that not having a proper education is the root of all the problems in the world today. If people knew how many people die each day from hunger, they would think twice before they throw away extra food. Furthermore, if people had knowledge, they could use reasoning and rationality to solve conflicts rather than go to war. Therefore, in my opinion, world peace can be achieved by obtaining a good education.

My opinion is further strengthened by the sayings of our beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): “Attainment of knowledge is a must for every man and women” (Ibn Mājah). In light of this Ḥadīth, as a Muslim I have firm faith that education is the key to changing the world. May Allah enable all of us to follow the teachings of our beloved Holy prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and grant us the ability to change the world. Āmīn.

By: Hisham Virk, Age: 9, Silver Spring, MD
IF I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD

By: Ujala Yousaf
Age 12
Central Virginia

I would make the world a peaceful place,
I would stop the fighting, the wars and the violence in Muslim countries.
I would stop the hate all over the world.
All hating does is make the evil happy.
I would try to make the world less negative and more positive.
A peaceful place is a place where the people living in it are happy.
If you are not happy, then the place you are living in is a gloomy place.
The evil is taking control over the world and the good is trying to find its way.
Love is the air in the peaceful world.
If I had the chance to change the world…
Peace would be our new hope, our faith.
I Believe....
I believe to soar
Across the peaceful plains
I believe to fly

I dream of blue birds
I dream of a bright orange sky
I dream of world peace

Go to inspire
The children still learning to
Believe in their dreams

Inspire to unite
All the people in the world
Bring about world peace

By: Iman Ahmad, Age 10, Atlanta

To make the world a better place, I would take all the drugs and throw them in outer space. I would tell everyone to be a Muslim - because that means you believe in one God and that's Allah. I would go to all the armies and tell them: respect your cities and countries, not fight them, respect them.

By: Kashif Latif, Age 6 Zion, IL

To make the world a better place I would ask people to wear a scarf so you can be Muslim and watch MTA so they can see Huzoor. I would ask people to come together and bring your whole family to the mosque so we can help them get food and houses.

By: Asifah Latif, Age 6 Zion, IL
Whenever I visit my grandma, she uses the strangest recipes to make food that still tastes so yummy. She says she puts love in her food and that’s why it tastes so good. Whatever that means, she never tells me the exact ingredients she uses. But this is what I think she would put in the recipe of a “change the world” pie, if she had to make one.

2 cups of Tolerance
2 cups of Justice
1 spoon of Mutual Respect
1 spoon of Readiness to Forgive
1 spoon of Love
1 spoon of Generosity
1 spoon of Honesty
Lots and lots of Prayers
Sprinkles of Hope and Trust in Allah

By: Maha Laiq, Age 10, Central Virginia

Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals

Written by Ruqaiya Asad

This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur’anic references and scientific facts that appeal to children’s natural interest. Purchase at: islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com.

The Story of the Noble Qur’ān

Written by Ruqaiya Asad

This is a book for children. It tells the story of the Qur’ān’s revelation and significance in a simple, child friendly story. All original, oil illustrations. Purchase this book at: islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com
Why are mosques important?

A mosque is a place of worship. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), along with his followers, built the mosque in Madinah so that everyone could collectively worship Allah.

Mosques represent unity and equality of humanity, regardless of the differences of race, color, language and nationality.

We follow one imam with unity. It is where Muslims stand shoulder to shoulder, united in their love for Allah and their desire to please Him. A mosque is known as the house of Allah on earth. Besides prayers, a mosque is a place where different religious gatherings happen, which serves as a source of knowledge.

Everyone should take care of mosques in the same way as they look after their homes, if not better.

By: Haris Chaudhry, Age: 9, Laurel, MD

Points to Ponder

A collection of stories told by Ḥadrat Khalifatul-Masih II, may Allah be pleased with him.

$2. AMI Bookstore,
15000 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905.
http://www.amibookstore.us/
IF I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD

There are many ways to help change the world. Some ways I would help change the world are: providing better healthcare, better education, and more donations.

Having better medical care could make a huge difference. All around the globe, people suffer from various diseases, illnesses, and viruses. We should give a bit more money to try to improve people’s health. The health insurance prices should be reduced so more people can afford it. Something as simple as giving blood at local fairs, carnivals or events can save numerous lives.

Education is very important for kids. In an era like this if you’re not knowledgeable, people think that you’re not worth it. It’s very important that we have a strong grip on various topics. Education gives us knowledge of the world around us and helps us change it into something better. It helps us develop a far better perspective. It helps us build opinions and have new points of view. If more people have better medical education, more doctors there will be to help.

Donating books, toys, clothes, etc., can flip someone’s world around. Many kids around the world only have one outfit to wear per month, and walk barefoot on the sidewalks. To improve a situation like this, age doesn’t matter. A five year old can donate a toy and bring a smile to fifty different kids in that area. We can donate shoes, clothes, workbooks, textbooks, pencils, etc., and improve the lives of millions of people around the world.

By: Zoha Qamar, Age: 12, Central Virginia
My Favorite Mosque

A place like home and also a place of worship. What could it be? A mosque, of course. The mosque I am referring to is Baitul-Amn Mosque of Connecticut. It’s name was given by Haḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his helper), and it literally means “house of peace.” It is located in the center of Connecticut in the town of Meriden. It also serves as our local Jamā’at center.

Although it is not originally built as a mosque, it is very special to me. I was only four years old in 2007 when we purchased it from the Jehovah Witness religious group, but even at that young age, I remember that I was bursting with excitement about the news of the mosque.

The building has only one story and, in the style of its previous owners, it is basically one large hall with good circulation but without windows. At the inauguration of the new mosque, the Mayor of Meriden gave our Jamā’at an honorable citation and welcomed us into the neighborhood. Since then, we have held many meetings at the mosque and have gotten a lot of good newspaper coverage. The mosque is also where we have our Nāṣirāt meetings and even fun sleepovers. Mostly though, the mosque is always open to us for offering Prayers.

I was sad when we had to move from Connecticut to Pittsburgh. But, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, there is another mosque in our new local Jamā’at. Even if I don’t move back to Connecticut, I will always remember Baitul-Amn Mosque because of all the good times there. A mosque is special not because of fancy walls or ornaments. It’s special because it’s
the house of Allah and also our second home. Baitul-Amn Mosque of Connecticut is among those special places.

By: Ilhaam Ahmed Husain, Age 10, Baitul-Aman Mosque of Connecticut

Find many books for children at

www.amibookstore.us
Hajrah Gondal, Age 9, South Virginia

If I could change the world, I would volunteer and raise money. Even if I am just a kid, I can make a big difference in the world. I can help people that cannot read. I can even grow a garden. Just because we are kids does not mean we cannot make a change to the world. Just do anything good, even just help out at home. It NEVER matters if you’re a kid, a kid can do almost anything! So get out as soon as you can and change the world. Let me tell you some more ideas of how I can change the world. I can raise money for my school charity and any trash I see, I can just pick it up and throw it away even when its not mine. I will listen to the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ always. And even if I just follow the slogan of our Jamā’at, “Love for all, hatred for none,” I am making a change. That’s how I can change the world.

Sabina Khan, Age 12, Northern Virginia

If I could change the world, everyone would pray. People wouldn’t be killed for their religious beliefs. Everyone would go to the mosque. All would believe in Allah, do good deeds, and help the needy and elderly. We would make sure to offer our Prayers on time. All would dress and act modestly. We would make sure to not have wars and live in peace with each other, so everyone wins! We would NOT murder people and kill animals for no reason. Everyone would try to get along with each other. We would all listen to Allah and never believe Satan. If we did these things, the world would surely be a better place. If ONLY I could change the world!!!
Prophets Mentioned in the Holy Quran

Dania Ahmad, Age 7, Austin, TX

Allah has sent many prophets to guide people to the right path. They help make the world a better place. The following prophets are mentioned in the Holy Quran:

- Ādam (Adam)
- Nūh (Noah)
- Şāliḥ (Methusaleh)
- Lūt (Lot)
- Ishāq (Isaac)
- Yūsuf (Joseph)
- Shu’aib (Jethro)
- Mūsā (Moses)
- Dawūd (David)
- Sulaimān (Solomon)
- Ilyās (Elijah)
- Yaḥyā (John the Baptist)
- Uzair (Ezra)
- Muḥammad (Muhammad)

- Idris (Enoch)
- Hūd (Heber)
- Ibrāhīm (Abraham)
- Ismā‘īl (Ishmael)
- Ya‘qūb (Jacob)
- Ayyūb (Job)
- Harūn (Aaron)
- Alyasa (Elisha)
- Yūnus (Jonah)
- Dhul-Kifl (Ezekiel)
- Zakariyya (Zechariah)
- Īsā (Jesus)
- Luqmān (Luqman)

Peace Be Upon Them All.
Al-Hilāl

If I Could Change the World, I Would...

Sophia R. Bhatt, Age 7, Charlotte

If I could change the world I would stop pollution—for the peace of the animals. If people do not stop pollution, then more species of animals will become extinct, species like the Woolly Mammoth. Pollution is still going on in the Amazon. Thousands of trees are dying too.

Also, for the peace of humans, I would make everybody agree on taxes, property, money, and all other sorts of other things too. If everybody agreed, nobody would argue or fight in wars. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) helped us with this. He told everybody to respect the environment and stop fights quickly. Imagine how happy God would be with us. This is why I wish to stop pollution and stop fights quickly.

Misbah Malik, Age 8, Northern Virginia

I feel bad when I see people starving and sleeping in the open without shelter. I wish I could protect them from changes in weather. I feel really bad when I see people digging for food in the trash. I wish I could create a fund where people donate and that donation can be used to help the needy. I know I am very small but I know I can make a big difference by helping the needy. I also wish that I can stop the wars which will make the world a better place to live.
If I could change the world, I would reduce world hunger and stop wars that are hurting people and especially Muslims in Afghanistan and Pakistan. I would also try to help people that have diseases. I would help build homes for the less fortunate. I would try to help those who can’t afford to help themselves. I would reduce the amount of bullying and let kids go to school without fear of being bullied. If I could change the world, I would just make it a happy, better place. In Shā Allah. Thank you for reading what I would do if I could change the world.

I wish this whole land stays beautiful, as clear and as pure as can be.
I wish it could be perfect with lots of perfect glee.
Good words make you glorious in every single way.
From head to foot and top to toe, you’re clear and clean to play.
You can dance around and never be found.
YOU are free for miles of trees and in the leaves, so happy you’ll be!
With miles of fun it will all be done what a lot of fun it will be.

Sahar Khan, Age 11, Northern Virginia

Fareedha White, Age 7, Northern Virginia
If I Could Change the World

Omar Thurman, Age 10, St. Louis, MO

If I could change the world, I would end the wars going on in and between countries, territories, and provinces. These wars have killed many people and have destroyed many resources. If only the rulers of these places would come to a compromise, these wars wouldn’t be happening. I would also stop the violence, abuse, crime, and controversy going on around the world. Wars and conflicts around the world should come to an end. I know it’s not easy and sometimes these things happen for a reason good enough to fight for. But why did these things happen in the first place?

The Holy Qur’an says, “You are the best people raised for the good of mankind, you enjoin what is good and forbid evil and believe in Allah” (3:111), and, “Surely all believers are brothers. So make peace between brothers and fear Allah that mercy may be shown to you” (48:11). The Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, “A Muslim is he whose word and deed do not harm others” (Bukhārī).

From what Allah and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) have taught me, I’ve learned that some people will still cause conflict to get what they or their people want. But there are lots of things that can be solved a different way. If only people understood that we are all brothers and sisters, there wouldn’t be so much violence and controversy going on around the world, which would make it a better place.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Competing in the Bounce House Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Eating a Halal Hot Dog!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Staying up at night and sleeping in my sleeping bag next to my friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Waking up early for Fajr Ṣalāt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Taking a shower in an 18-wheeler (IT WAS COLD!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Winning second place for Aṭfāl essay competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Watching Khādim break a world record for packaging food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Listening to speeches and learning that we are all brothers!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yelling “Na’ra-i-Takbīr Allāhu Akbar!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Making friends with other boys, just like me, from all over the country</td>
</tr>
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</table>
"Surely all believers are brothers. So make peace between brothers, and fear Allah that mercy may be shown to you.” (49:11)

Spreading happiness is something you can do to help decrease world suffering. If you think about it, arguments usually stem from anger or sadness. If you made one single person happy, then that person could make someone else happy and so on and so forth. And, making someone happy doesn’t have to be giving them a gift and praising them for something, it can simply be saying As-Salāmu Alaikum. You never know, they may be having a bad day because they think no one has noticed them, and no one has said hello. Spreading happiness could be talking about someone’s problems so that they don’t feel like they are alone and they have to keep their issues to themselves.
How would I change the world to make it better place in 2015?

"What I want to change in the world is all the killing going on. How I will change that, I will make speeches and posters on world peace and on a violence-free world!"
- Fizzah Ahmad, Age 10, Milwaukee

"If I could change something next year, I would change that people would stop being rude to other people and stop all of the violence in the world. And stop backbiting."
- Qavia Lopez, Age 9, Milwaukee

"Dear 2015, I hope that in 2015 more of my family members won't die. In 2014, my uncle (mom's older brother) passed away from cancer and my great-uncle (mom's uncle) passed away from old age. Also that there's less shootings of kids and African-American people, and that Ebola will stop."
- Jauwairiyah Saeed, Age 12, Milwaukee

"My wish is to have world peace. Everyone would be nice, no violence and maybe we could all agree on stopping world hunger. One day I think someone would agree on giving the poor food and money, more happy faces!"
- Yasmin Ali, Age 11, Milwaukee

"My personal wish is to have world peace and to make the community a better place and stop all the violence and backbiting."
- Magali Jawad, Age 9, Milwaukee

"I would help the world by...
1. Place more trash cans/recycling bins in parks
2. Try to stop racism
3. Stop air pollution
4. And so much more

I love the world Allah Ta'ala gave us and I wish to protect it. 2015, a new world and a time for change."
- Malahat Ali, Age 12, Milwaukee
Allah Looks into Our Hearts

The human heart as we know it is a muscular organ which pumps blood back and forth in our body, making our physical existence possible. However, it is much more than that. It also feeds our spiritual growth. We refer to our heart when we describe our soul, mind, and spirit.

Our heart is the seat of all human emotions and true beliefs. The place where no matter what we say or do, our true intentions lie. Allah can see these true intentions, good or bad. So, it is important that we act accordingly because, if we say or do something we do not actually believe in, it is seen as a very big sin in Allah’s eyes.

Today I am going to talk to you about how Allah looks into our hearts. The title of my article is based on a beautiful Ḥadīth of our beloved Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him):

_Innālillāhī Lā Yanzurū l-lā Ṣuvarikum Wa l-lā Ajsāmikum Wa Lākin Yanzurū l-lā Qulūbikum_.

_God does not see the physical features of your body, but He sees your hearts._

Men and women are obsessed with appearance. There is nothing wrong with grooming and personal hygiene but it is undeniably true that many people are only concerned with their exterior beauty. People then start to neglect the inner beauty that they should have. But Allah does not look at our physical features; He looks only at our hearts which contain the truth about a person that one could not even begin to know from their physical features.
We human beings try to guess the conditions of others from their faces or other physical features because we cannot read their hearts. In many cases our guesses turn out to be wrong. But God, being our Creator, knows the conditions and intentions of our hearts. We cannot hide anything from Him and we should try to keep our hearts clean. In any case, we cannot deceive our God.

The same subject has been mentioned by our Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in another Ḥadīth in which he said:

*Innamal-A’mālu Bin-Niyāt.*

Our actions depend on our intentions.

This means that Allah shall not reward according to our outwardly, good-looking actions but according to the real intentions behind them. Our intentions belong to our hearts and those are only known to God. So a sincere Muslim would always examine his heart to see if his motives are honest, and if the heart is presentable to Allah, the Almighty.

Zakariya Virk writes in one of his articles that a healthy heart will undoubtedly keep a mind healthy and vice versa. A person’s character is built on his thoughts, in other words, we are what we think. Allah, our Merciful Lord, through His Benevolence, has given us the choice and power to govern our thoughts and thereby build a character that is worthy of praise. An immoral character grows from the seeds of immoral thoughts while a virtuous character grows from the seeds of virtuous thoughts. The heart is where all kinds of good or bad thoughts are born. Therefore, it is imperative to cultivate a pure and clean heart.

The Prophet of Islam (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has also described the importance of a pure and sincere heart. According to the most reliable book of Ḥadīth, Bukhari, he told one of his companions:

*In the body there is a piece of flesh; when it is healthy, the whole body is healthy, and when it becomes unhealthy, the whole body is unhealthy, and lo, that piece is the heart.*

This Ḥadīth indicates that a human heart is the
fountainhead of all our emotions. If one’s heart entertains pure thoughts then all of one’s deeds will be upon the road to virtue, but if one’s heart is full of wicked ideas, then that would lead him to a path of vice. Of all the sins, man can fall into, none of them seem as sinful as false profession and hypocrisy. God has termed them as Munāfiqīn, that is, hypocrites, whose actions are not supported by their hearts. Not only do hypocrites not keep their word or talk of sincerity, but also have disbelief in their hearts.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has very rightly warned all of us, 

*Daro yāro woh beenā khudā he.* O people, entertain fear of God in your minds as your God is the All Seeing One.

In this age, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has revived the living faith in God and repeatedly advised us to practice Taqwa, meaning, righteousness. This is helpful to get rid of hypocrisy and follow the commandments of Allah, the Almighty.

Thus the heart is like a plant, which starts with a seed but it develops into a tree. Similarly, the thoughts and ideas are born in the heart, which then grow into actions that shape who we are. A good root embedded in the heart ultimately results in better hands, tongue, eyes and mind. Consequently the purity of heart encourages the growth of the tree of virtue. And therefore, Allah looks into our hearts to evaluate our actions.

May Allah Ta‘ala bless us with real faith that our God is fully aware of all noble and evil thoughts which come to our minds, and we should try to keep our hearts clean and pure. Āmīn.
Haseeb Sheikh, Dallas Texas
Letter to the editor: When violence happened, Ahmadis responded with peace
Posted: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Instead of benefiting from the last days of the holy month of Ramadan, a mob ransacked, looted, and set fire to 8 Ahmadi homes in Gujranwala, Pakistan on July 27. A grandmother and her granddaughters, a 7 year-old and 8 month-old baby, died of suffocation; a 7 month pregnant female suffered a miscarriage, and 8 others are being treated for injuries and burns. What's worse, the police, even with reinforcements, did nothing to stop the mob.

The fire brigade was obstructed and forced to turn around and ambulances were pelted with stones by the mob. These innocent people were killed because they were members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The second amendment to the Pakistani constitution prohibits Ahmadis from associating in any way with Islam and Ordinance XX goes on to criminalize all such actions. Thus, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community faces state-facilitated and institutionalized persecution. His Holiness, the Khalifa of Islam, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, has always forbidden Ahmadis from taking to the streets or responding with aggression. He has, instead, urged community members to respond with patience and prayer.
Nashita Khandakar, Monroe, New Jersey
Times of Trenton Letters to the Editor - Feb. 10, 2014

**What it’s like to wear hijab**

Growing up as an Ahmadi Muslim girl in the West is a completely different experience.

Since I was a little girl, I saw that my mom always wore the hijab (head scarf). I started to wear hijab at the age of 11 in middle school. The way people viewed me was amazing and the amount of respect I received was incredible. There are many boys and girls who use inappropriate language, but when I am around them, they avoid that kind of talk. Dating is a huge aspect of the Western culture. My hijab shields me from the impact of peer pressure.

I am frequently asked by many people as to why I cover. I always try my very best to remove their misconceptions about Islam and my choice of wearing my scarf. Hijab is not a new concept; it’s been observed by women of many religious backgrounds.

Hijab gave me self-confidence, made me a stronger person, helped me understand my purpose in life and freed me from peer pressure.

http://www.reviewofreligions.org/
Dear Editor:

Recently, the whole world has come to know of the terrorist attack upon the satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo, in France, which involved three young Muslim men who shot and killed over a dozen people. The men arrived, heavily armed, ready to shoot to avenge Prophet Muhammad, who was dishonored by the magazine’s caricaturing of him.

Regardless of the fact that what Charlie Hebdo did was offensive to many Muslims it does not warrant an act of violence. The gunmen should have read the Qur’anic verse which states “the killing of one ... is like the killing of all mankind” (5:32).

As a young American Ahmadi Muslim girl — I am 13 — I wholeheartedly condemn this barbaric attack. The founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, has taught his followers to be the warriors of the pen, and this is how I defend the honor of Prophet Muhammad— with words and not with bullets.

Husna A. Mirza
Member, Muslim Women Media Team
Jamaica Hills

Condemning terror

http://www.mta.tv
Dear Editor:
I am a seventh-grade student of a New York City public school. My Muslim immigrant parents taught me from a young age that the Holy Prophet taught Muslims never to use violence to solve anything but to use peace. The word Islam itself means peace and submission. Seeing that I am born a Muslim it hurts me to see other “Muslims” not following the teachings of Islam and not following the examples of our Prophet. The three “Muslim” men in France who committed the crime were attempting to avenge the Prophet of Islam by killing over a dozen people. Two of them, Ahmed and Mustafa, being Muslims themselves. It is ironic that The Holy Prophet had these two names as well.

This tragedy shows us that there are many people who come under the banner of Islam. Most are the people that follow their religion and believe in God. Some are the ones that we call “Muslims” who use the name but know nothing about the religion. These people are the reason why the true peace loving Muslims like my parents are facing discrimination today.
Would you like to have a job where you get to learn about new things every day, talk to interesting people and figure out creative ways to tell stories that enthrall and captivate your audience? Become a journalist.

Journalism is a vital profession in society. Journalists report news and other important information to the public. Sometimes they explain complicated subjects. Other times, they write about new trends or scientific breakthroughs. They do this by collecting information on people, events and issues. Sometimes they travel to the site of a story, like an accident or an important gathering. But they also interview people to get more information, research public records and make their own observations.

Some journalists work for newspapers, while others write for magazines or web sites. Other journalists work on television or in radio. There are many ways to get the news out to the public, and many journalists often have to be able to shoot video, take pictures and write clearly at the same time.

Most journalists specialize in certain subject areas, called “beats.” For example, a political journalist might focus her reporting on what’s going on in Congress, while a sports reporter might work solely on writing about basketball. Specializing in a specific subject area allows the journalist to
become knowledgeable in the subject and develop contacts and research.

The skills you need to be a journalist include being able to ask smart and tough questions, conduct research, write well, and put together information from multiple sources to tell a clear story. It’s a tough job, but it can also be a lot of fun. You’re often the first to know about something, and you get to shape how a story is told. As a journalist, you get to talk to people from all parts of society, and you are always learning something new.

But being a journalist also carries a lot of responsibility. Journalists must be able to report multiple sides of a story in a fair way. They have to be able to figure out what the truth is in many situations. And often, they are required to hold people in positions of power accountable for what they do. And journalists must work hard to verify everything they report and write and make sure it is as accurate as possible.

Sometimes, journalism can be a dangerous job. For example, if a journalist is writing about a controversial subject or a dangerous situation, he or she could face obstacles in reporting the story that may even include threats to his or her safety. That’s why we should be grateful to journalists who write about atrocities happening in the world, because they often have to take risks to uncover the information they bring to the world.

As an Ahmadi Muslim journalist, a lot of the teachings I’ve learned from Islam help guide me in my job. I value truth above everything, as Islam teaches me, and that provides a good foundation for my work. I work hard to make sure that my reporting is accurate and that I am not distorting the facts. I also try to be fair to everyone I’m writing about.
If you’re interested in pursuing a career in journalism, it’s never too early (or too late) to start. Take some writing classes while you’re in school. Join your school’s newspaper or news channel. Write a piece for a Jamā’at publication like Al-Hilal. And study a variety of subjects that interest you so you have a strong foundation of knowledge in the subject you want to report on. And most importantly, read, listen to and watch as much journalism as you can. Talk to your parents and friends about what a piece does well and what could be better. The more you read, the better you will be when it’s your turn to produce your own journalism. Journalism is an exciting career, and we need more young Ahmadi Muslims to aspire to it!

Ismat Sarah Mangla is an award-winning journalist in New York City. Her work has appeared in TIME, Money, Fortune, CNNMoney.com, AlJazeera.com, MarketWatch.com, USA Today, The Washington Post, The Detroit Free Press, Forbes.com and Michigan Alumnus magazine, among others. She also started an online publication for South Asian Americans called NiraliMagazine.com. She also enjoys writing about issues related to Islam. If you have questions about pursuing a career in journalism, email her at ismat@ismatmangla.com.

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WHAT do YOU think?
Should kids have their own cell phones?

Taha Bilal Hayee, 12 Years, Washington DC

Introduction
For starters, should kids be able to have their own cell phones? I am not sure. The cell phone is an important invention of the modern age. It has revolutionized the ways of communication, socialization and entertainment. Cell phones have been in use since the 1970s when Dr. Martin Cooper invented the first prototype. Since then, cell phones have been upgraded into mini-computers or smartphones of today.

Cell phones impact people in many different ways. Young children also use cell phones. But this can have positive and negative effects. This essay will discuss the pros and cons of giving cell phones to children under the age of 14.

Advantages
The first advantage of giving a cell phone to a child is that it helps him/her keep in contact with family at all times. Especially, when a child is going to the Ijtima, or another event outside the city and the parents cannot accompany the child. In such cases, if the child has a cell phone, he/she could call, text and keep in touch with their parents. In another situation, in case a child is lost or separated from their family in a huge crowd or at a mall, the child could call the parents to help them connect.

Smartphones also have utilities like a dictionary, calculator, and weather forecast. If a child is sitting down to do Math or English homework, cell phone calculator or dictionary could be handy. Likewise, the weather forecast on the cell phone is always useful to plan your weekly sports and games.

Having a cell phone can also remind you to do stuff. For
example, you have to go to a friend’s house, or submit an assignment. A reminder can be activated on the cell phone. Also, if the child is forgetful, he or she can leave reminders to help remind themselves. Many new apps on the smart phones have Prayer times as a good reminder to alert you when it is time for Prayer.

Cell phones have apps that can help in many other ways. If you need a quick snack like pizza for you and your friends, apps of Pizza Hut or Dominos are always handy for a quick delivery.

Finally, many cell phones have internet which can help you find the nearest grocery store, library or a skating rink. You can also use the internet to check your email and do research on school projects such as the science fair projects. The internet is basically an enormous mall of knowledge, games, videos, and pictures.

**Disadvantages**

One major disadvantage of having a cell phone is that it wastes a lot of your important time. It can affect your studies and create a big distraction from reading books. For instance, you have got a test on Monday, and it is just the start of the weekend. At the end of the weekend, you are still playing games on your cell phone. Now let’s just fast forward to the future. You are getting back your test results and you find out that you have failed.

Another disadvantage is that you cannot have fun on vacation when you keep checking emails and texting. Although you have finally got a break from school, yet you keep on getting emails and texts from your friends. Your dad and mom keep complaining about how much your eyes have been stuck to your phone. When your break ends, you had no fun because you never took your eyes off the cell phone.

Yet another harmful effect is that people are only interested in the latest version of cell phones and waste money on constantly replacing phones. Recently, I saw on
the television that two men were fighting to get into the apple store to get the new iPhone 5s. Following this brawl, both were arrested by the police. This shows the extent of greed, and carelessness on part of human beings in pursuit of cell phones.

A common danger of using cell phones, especially by kids, is the distraction cell phones can cause while walking on the side walk, or crossing the street. A child, texting on his/her cell phone while walking on a busy street of a city like New York can get hit by a car and get seriously injured or even killed. That is not only hurting the child, but the entire family and the neighborhood. So, cell phones can sometimes be life-threatening for young children.

Another significant drawback is that cell phones can ruin children’s eyesight. In my own case, I now have to wear glasses most of the time, and that is just because I used to play a lot on my dad’s cell phone. A recent study conducted on British youth revealed that smartphones were capable of causing short sightedness in people of young age.

**Conclusion**

In the above paragraphs, I have argued both for and against giving cell phones to children. It is obvious that the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages of providing cell phones to young children. For children, cell phones are just an item of entertainment, and a big distraction from study. It is also injurious for their health and safety. It is thus concluded that young children should not have the cell phones until they are mature enough to handle it responsibly.

**Bibliography**

1. Beware-your smartphone can ruin your eyes!, by India.com Health, on August 19, 2013
2. Mobile phones and Children, by Michelle Maffei, on June 24, 2012

The first modern one-way hand-held cell-phone call was placed 40 years ago by a Motorola employee to an employee of Bell Systems on April 3, 1973.
Ways to Help!

Osaama Saifi

Today’s world is a global village. As the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has said, technology is a mean to spread the peacefulness of Islam. Part of the beauty of Islam is our duty to serve mankind. Below are various ways we can help serve mankind all throughout the world!

Ask a parent and use this technology below to see how you can make the world a better place.

**Earth’s kids**
Earth’s Kids provides resources for parents, teachers, and kids in showing how kids can make an impact in the world. Earth’s Kids provides resources about how to end world hunger, how to help animals, how to end poverty, and how to fight against discrimination and prejudice. Earth’s Kids provides facts for you to learn about these issues, and take steps for what you can do next.

**Compassionate Action Institute**
[http://www.pleasebekind.com/candotohelp.html](http://www.pleasebekind.com/candotohelp.html)
Compassionate Action Institutes focuses on trying to fight animal suffering. They teach various ways that kids of all ages can end animal suffering. Whether you have a cat, parrot, or fish as a pet, this resource will help you in ending the suffering of animals worldwide.

**Stopping Pollution**
[http://tiki.oneworld.net/pollution/pollution10.html](http://tiki.oneworld.net/pollution/pollution10.html)
This resource provides steps in how to fight pollution. Learn about buying food locally and how to avoid purchasing processed foods and sodas.
Practical Steps To Save The World!
http://www.ehow.com/how_6810104_kids-can-save-earth.html
This resource provides various small changes that we all can do to help create a positive change in the world. From understanding composting to learning how to start a toy trade program in your community, this resource can help you make those positive steps. Also, these changes can help create positive changes that can become permanent habits.

We Want to Hear from You!!!

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication. Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

The Children’s Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā’at Aḥmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

E-mail Submissions to: thealhilal@yahoo.com

Razzaq and Farida

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- True Story of a Prince
- Rabia’s Eid
- Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, the Promised Reformer (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Ḥaḍrat Safiyyah (May Allah be pleased with her)
- Hazrat Nuh (peace be on him) and the Great Flood
- Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him)
- Hazrat Hud (peace be on him)
- Ḥaḍrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her)

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**2015 - Issue 1**
O ye who believe! respond to Allah, and the Messenger when he calls you that he may give you life, and know that Allah comes in between a man and his heart, and that He it is unto Whom you shall be gathered. (The Holy Qur’ān, 8 [Al-Anfāl] : 25)