

Khilafat Jubilee – Fiji & New Zealand Tour **3rd July 2008 to 20th July 2008**

By the grace of Allah the Almighty, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Australia had a very successful and historic tour to New Zealand and Fiji Islands in line with the Khilafat Centenary Celebrations. There were 24 members of the Community on the 5 day tour to New Zealand and 23 of them continued on for a further 12 days to the tour of the Fiji Islands.

Preparations for the tour started almost a year before the actual trip under the direction of the then Sadr Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, Br Amjad Habib Khan who formed a Committee consisting of the following members:

- Br Amjad Habib Khan
- Br Romeo Istafa Hassan Khan
- Br Naushad Hakim Khan
- Br Sharfraz Ahmad Rahim

The Committee members put a plan of action together and met regularly to see that plans were achieved. Given the enormous task of organizing a trip of this magnitude, the committee members did a grand job of diligently carrying out their responsibilities.

The bulk of the cost of the tour was met by the travelling individuals but the tour may not have been as successful without the assistance of the following:

- Ameer Saheb for his continuous guidance.
- Jamaat Ahmadiyya Australia for the initial financial contribution.
- Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Australia for further financial contribution.
- Jamaat NZ and various individuals for their hospitality and being a great host.
- Jamaat Fiji and various individuals for their hospitality and being a great host.
- Security Ordinance Services for sponsoring uniform.
- Rundle Point Convenience Store for sponsoring uniform.
- Gaffar Enterprises Pty Ltd t/a United Petroleum for sponsoring uniform.

A special mention should also be made to Br Jamal-ud-deen Ahmad Khan, who was the volunteer physiotherapist and to Br Mohd Yasin Maqbool who was the MTA representative.

The tour provided the Khuddam and Ansar with spiritual uplift, bonding and unity among the group members. Not only did the group offer regular daily congregational prayers but had daily congregational Tahajjud prayers as well. As a token of appreciation, Sadr sahib presented a shield to each host branch Sadr.

In addition to the various duties split between the committee members, Br Sharfraz Rahim was given the opportunity of keeping a daily diary of which the summary is below:

Day 1: The tour group met at Bait-ul Huda Mosque on 03rd July at 6.30am. Ameer Saheb provided us with words of advice and then led dua. The group left for the Sydney airport for the 11.30am flight to Auckland in NZ, which arrived at 4.30pm. We were met by members of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya NZ and were taken to Baitul-ul-Muqet centre for an official welcome. The Centre was also our place of residence for our entire stay in NZ.

Day 2: Tour of Auckland city with visits to various summits, Juma prayers and Quiz competition. In the evening we had a historic and a very entertaining soccer match between Australia and New Zealand won by Australia 5-3.

Day 3: Various sports including volleyball, indoor soccer and touch rugby at an indoor sports complex. We showed Jamaat Australia DVD and presentation of Shield to Sadr Jamaat NZ and Sadr Khuddamul Ahmadiyya NZ.

Day 4: Tour of upper North Island. We also visited the Te Puia Cultural Center in Rotorua and were amazed by the geo-thermal activity at the site. We also had a very relaxing time at the Polynesian Spa. Night tour of Auckland city.

Day 5: Free time and bit of shopping. We then left for Auckland airport for a 5.30pm flight to Nadi in Fiji which arrived at 8.40pm. We were picked up by members of the Nadi branch and stayed overnight at the Aqsa Mosque.

Day 6: Visited the Lautoka Ahmadiyya Primary School and tour of Lautoka city. Went back to Nadi for a Seerat-un-Nabi Jalsa. Presentation of Shield to Nadi branch. We also contributed \$500 towards cooking pots for Nadi branch.

Day 7: Left for Suva city with a picnic stopover at the world famous Natadola beach, which is near our Maro Centre in Coral Coast. We had BBQ lunch and horse ride before continuing on our journey to Suva. Overnight stay at Fazle Umar Mosque in Suva.

Day 8: Tour of Suva city with visits to major sites. Historic soccer match against Suva team which Australia won 4-1. In the evening we had a general discussion on Ahmadiyyat in Fiji conducted by Ameer Saheb Fiji. We also visited a tradeshow carnival at night.

Day 9: Short visit to Nausori town. We also visited the Ahmadiyya Muslim College and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Primary School in Narere. Juma in Suva and presentation of Shield to Suva branch. We then left for Lautoka city and stayed overnight at Rizwan Mosque.

Day 10: Visited Tivua (Mystery) Island for a day excursion. It was a very nice cruise to the beautiful island. The day also included snorkeling, kayaking, swimming, coral and

fish viewing, volleyball and lunch. Presentation of the Shield to Lautoka branch. We also contributed \$500 towards a water pump for Lautoka branch. We then left for Maro for overnight camp at Mahmoud Mosque.

Day 11: Sports Rally in Maro. Fiji Jamaat had representatives from all the Viti Levu (main Island of Fiji) branches. In the Soccer match, Australia A drew Nil all with the Combined West team whilst Australia defeated Viti Levu 6-1. The Nailaga branch defeated Australia in Volleyball and Touch Rugby. Presentation of Shield to Maro branch. We also donated \$500 towards Cooking Shed for Maro branch. We then left for Nadi in the evening.

Day 12: Domestic flight to the very beautiful Taveuni Island. We were picked up by Taveuni branch members. Visited Bouma waterfalls, and the official site of the International Dateline where each new day begins. Being literally the corner of the earth, this place has fulfilled Allah's promise "I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth". We also had a small fishing trip and stayed at Baitul Jame Mosque in Taveuni. Presentation of Shield to Taveuni branch. We also donated cooking pots and serving bowls to the branch.

Day 13: Seven aside soccer match against Taveuni won by Australia A 6-2. After lunch we left to board a 2.30pm Ferry to Savusavu (in Vanua Levu, second main Island of Fiji) which arrived at 7.30pm. We had dinner in Savusavu town and then left for overnight stay at Nasir Mosque in Labasa town.

Day 14: Left for Valoca and visited the Mubarak Mosque which is the first mosque built by Jamaat Fiji in 1965. Also visited the Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School in Valoca. We then had our final soccer match against a combined Vanua Levu team which Australia won 1-0 in extra time. Presentation of Shield to Valoca branch. We also donated an electricity generator to the Valoca branch.

Day 15: Whilst not on the agenda and at the request of Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School, we also fielded a team to play a friendly match where Australia A lost by four goals. We also presented a Shield to the School as well as donated a set of soccer nets. We then headed to Nasarawaga branch for a traditional Fijian welcome and Lovo meal. We played a limited overs mixed cricket match at a nearby school. We also went for a short fishing trip. Presentation of Shield to Nasarawaga branch. We also donated a grass cutting machine (brush cutter) to the branch. We performed Namaz at Masjid Bilal and then left for a swim at a nearby river and waterfall. We then left back for Labasa.

Day 16: Visited Labasa town and then had Juma in Labasa. Labasa jamaat presented the history of Ahmadiyyat in Fiji. Presentation of Shield to Labasa branch. We also donated cooking pots and plates to the branch. We then left for Labasa airport for a 3.30pm flight to Nausori (back to the main Island) which arrived half an hour later. We continued our journey by bus to Aqsa Mosque in Nadi.

Day 17: Family visits and day trip to Nadi town. After lunch, we left for Maro to attend the engagement ceremony of Br Ahmad Amjad Khan, son of our Sadr sahib. Soon after we left for Nadi Airport for our return home. Our flight left at 9.35pm to Auckland where we had a five hours stopover.

Day 18: After the transit in Auckland, at 7am we boarded our final flight to Sydney airport which arrived at 8.30am local time. We were picked up by some Khaddim brothers and dropped off at Baitul-ul-Huda Mosque.

Report Prepared by Sharfraz Rahim.
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