



An Islamic Movement of Dialogue based on the Holy Quran, initiated by H M Abdullah II Bin Al- Hussein * a Member of the Holy Family of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)*, King of Hashemite Sultanate of Jordan, who issued the Royal Edict called Message of Amman which naturally gave birth to the `A Common Word, the`movement, of which name in Urdu is given as Islami Tehreek-e-Mukalemah.

Hope and scope of peaceful human co-existence and world peace

A brief report of the first **A COMMOM WORD CONFERENCE** Held In Islamabad Pakistan on 13 April 2009



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Story of A Common Word as <u>How it traveled to Pakistan</u>

In October 2008 CE, when Allama G R Chishti browsed the Official Website of `A Common Word` He Sent his Comments to the organizers of the movement by email, offering to open Sub Office of `A Common Word` in Islamabad Pakistan. The comments can be watched at the Official Website of `A Common Word` under the link, `Comments`, at Number 173

Commencement of the work On A Common Word In Pakistan

As soon the message from Mr Sulayman was received, Allama Chishti started to discuss the matter with like minded Muslim and Christian friends which included Ex-I G Police Muhammad Saeed AL Ra`I a distinguished Islamic Scholar, Col. S K Tresslar Ex Federal Minister for Minority Affairs,Sport,Culture and Youth Affairs, Rev. Pastor Aftab Anwer, Maulana Zurab Abbasi Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Miskeen Abbasi Syed husnain gilani Mr Ahmed Husain and sardar Waheed Mrs Iffat Jabeen and so on.

Rev. Pastor Aftab Anwar helped Allama Chishti to meet Christian fellows in the Churches even in a Church Building Allama participated as the Chief Guest, the program was about the Holy Bible`s prophesies.

As a good will gesture Allama Chishti also invited Christians religious fellows to participate in a religious ceremony in his Mosque where a room has been set a side to discuss Muslim Christian relations to which the name has been given as Interfaith Hall.

UIPM Meeting

In the last week of February 2009, the members of Supreme Council of UIPM's meeting was held, Allam Chishti presided over the meting it was decided to hold A Common Word Conference to make aware of the real Islamic attitude towards the other religions of the world as it is depicted in the Amman Message and A Common Word.

Press Conference

According to the resolution passed by the supreme Council of UIPM, it was agreed that the program of the A Common Word Conference should be declared by the press conference.

Allama Chishti while Addressing the Press Conference said:

Respected representative of the Print Media, thank you for your consideration, that you have spared from your precious time to hear our view about the most modern Islamic movement of dialogue which has started from Jordan and we have welcome it in Pakistan.

At outset I submit that we are organizing `A Common Word Conference` Under auspices of Universal Interfaith Peace Mission (UIPM). That is to be held on Monday 13 April 2009 at Holiday Inn Islamabad Hotel at 2 PM.

A Common Word is the translation of an Arabic Term- Kalema Swaa, which was revealed in the Holy Quran Chapter 3 Verse # 64. Through which God Almighty ordered the Prophet Muhammad **PBUH** to invite Ahle -Kitab – Holders of Book i.e. Christians and Jews to come together on the common point between Muslim Christian and Jew.

Based on this verse, the 138 authoritative Ulema and Scholars, from all the denominations or schools of thought of Islam, from all over the world. joined toghather to write an open letter to the Pope Benedict XVI of Vatican City. Saying that we should enter into dialogue for the intellectual exchange and mutual understanding of one another`s religious beliefs.

The letter was welcome by the pope and all the Christian leaders as well as Jewish leaders. The gist of the letter was that Islam, Christianity and Judaism are all the monotheistic religions and have much in common and in essence the teachings of these all three religions can be <u>the love of God and love of neighbor</u>.

The Common Word Movement actually sprang from the Message of Amman initiated by His Majesty Shah Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein King of Jordan. Which declares that, Islam is the religion of peace, safety, and security and teaches it `s adherents of having good relations to other religions. This gave courage to the righteous Ulema to start dialogue with other religions

UIPM is a Pakistani Based World organization affiliated to United Religions Initiative URI (Head Office in California America) working for the interfaith peace and harmony contacted the Common Word Officials in Amman and were allowed to work to spread the Message to the masses of Pakistan..

UIPM is going to open A Common Word Office for Pakistan which will work with the Officials in Amman. <u>However it would be</u> <u>possible after necessary permission from Amman, whether we</u> <u>visit them or some authoritative personality visit us for the</u> <u>purpose.</u>

Muhammad Saeed al-Ra`l said when God is one then the message from him would definitely be the one and the same, so on this

ground all world` religions may establish peace and harmony among themselves.

Rev. Pastor Aftab Anwar said Christian believe in one God and thus they are in harmony with all monotheistic religions such as Muslims and Jews, so let us gather together on the common plate form of `A Common Word` to establish peace and harmony among ourselves despite the creedal differences.

Thank you

After the announcement of the `A Common Word Conference by the press conference, the Kehkhan Hall of Islamabad Hotel was booked for the conference the workers and like minded fellows were given the task to make the program a successful, with that, invitations were sent to the distinguished guests, participants, and the representatives of Electronic and Print Media. The text of the invitation was as it is hereunder.

INVITATION

Mr/Ms-----

The Quranic call for the unity of the holders of the book has again echoed after 14 00 years, in the form of Amman Message and Common Word. Which has naturally become the common constitution for all the schools of thought of Islam, as well as the starting point for all those who are engaged in interfaith dialogue.

To bring awareness to the people of Pakistan about this <u>modern understanding of the monotheism</u>, A Common Word Conference is going to be held under the auspices of the UIPM, on Monday 13, April 2009, at Kehkshan Hall of Holiday Inn Islamabad Hotel at 2 pm. Muhtram janab Malik Amjad Husain Alvi President Amnesty International Rawapindi/Islamabad will preside over the meeting,

Hon`ble Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi will bless the program as the Chief Guest

Allama Abulfateh GR Chishti Chairman of UIPM will deliver a special welcome and introductory address on the theme.

Diplomats, Ulema and Scholars from various religions, representatives from like minded organizations are expected to be the Guests of Honor at the event and give the audience benefit of their erudition on the theme.

Therefore we request your good-self to please Support the program with your presence to encourage the organizers and accelerate the cause of inter-religious peace and oblige.

Thank you

Yours Sincerely

Request for the Message of HRH Prince Ghazi Bin Muhammad Special Envoy and Advisor of the King of Jordan and

Chairman of the Royal Aal al-bayt Institute for Islamic Thoughts in Amman the Capital of Jordan

While the invitations were being distributed in Pakistan and the full program was being handed over to the participants, Allama Chishti wrote a request letter for the kind attention of HRH Prince Ghazi Bin Muhammad to bless the First `A Common Word Conference` by His Highness presence or at least by the Message. The Prince very kindly send Message to Allama Chishti which in fact not only brought a great joy to us but also solve the problem of explanation of the nature of `A Common Word`, this can be seen by reading the original Message which is brief, clear, vivid and self – explanatory.

The Message from



His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Bin Muhammad

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم السلام عليكم

It gives us great pleasure and - increases our gratitude to God Almighty - to hear that both the "Amman Message" and the "A Common Word" are spreading endemically in various parts of the world. We must commend Allameh Chisti for holding this event to promote them in Pakistan. We emphasize that neither message bring anything new as such except in their presentation. The "Amman Message" is the crystallization of traditional, plural orthodox Islam as according to the Qur'an and the Sunnah as understood by Muslim scholars for one thousand four hundred years or so, and the "A Common Word" is entirely grounded in the Holy Qur'an's call to Christians and Jews. For this reason precisely both are messages of peace and platforms for harmonious interaction; the first between Muslims and the second between all the peoples of the book. We note also that many Muslim scholars have not limited the "peoples of the book" to Christians and Jews - I believe Allameh Chisti's forebears were among the first to recognize Hindus of Shankara's Advaita Vedanta school of monotheism as people of the book as well. Whatever the case it is true that under all 7 madhabs of Islamic Law a person's religious beliefs other than Islam are, alone in themselves, not a cause for conflict with that person, so long as peaceful relations are maintained on all sides. Thus in word and in deed Islam is a religion and a civilization that respects and protects the dignity of every human being, remembering that God honored every human being and created them in the fairest form. These principles are sometimes misunderstood by some of our youth so I urge all to have a long look again at the texts of the Holy Qur'an, the

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of Amman Jordan

classical commentaries and the Hadith, and see the names of the learned scholars of the Umma who have signed the "Amman Message" and "A Common Word" and consider their wisdom in doing so.

All of the texts necessary to understand these things are available for free at <u>www.ammanmessage.com</u> and <u>www.acommonword.com</u> and the great Qur'anic commentaries are available at <u>www.altafsir.com</u>.

May Allah bless your efforts, all ... Written on a bumpy plane ride, this day 30.3.3009

والحمد لله

العبد غازي بن محمد بن طلال

"وَٱللهُ يَدْعُوا إلى دَار ٱلسَّلام وَيَهْدِي مَن يَشْنَاءُ إلى صِراطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ"

The Message was read to the audiences of the Conference with great joy by Hafiz, Quari and the younger Alem-e- Deen –Islam Mr Ibrahim Husain from London who was specially invited to participate in the Conference. He read the message in pure

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British pronunciation and thus the listener enjoyed to listen it attentively.

The scene of the stage of A Common Word Conference in Islamabad



Hon`ble Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr. Saleh Al- Jawarneh Ambassador of Jordan, Allama Abulfateh G R Chishti Chairmain of UIPM Malik Amjd Husain Alvi Distinguished Scholar Mohammad Saeed Al-Ra`l Co. S K Tressler Baji Mon Tressler Professor Mehboob Sada Director Christian Study Cenrte Rawalpindi, Rev.Pastor Aftab Anwar Qari Ibrahim Husain Rehana Advocate David Mitchel and Mr Imani Syed Husnain Gilani Mr Ahmed Husain addressing the First A Common Word Conference in Islamabad on 13 April 2009CE.

Proceedings of the First `A Common Word Conference

In Islamabad Pakistan Held on13 April 2009 C E

The proceedings of the Conference began at 2 pm with opening of the Hall, registration of the guests was continued up to 2.50 pm. All the participant guests have entered the hall, it took half an hour because the dutiful official from special branch of Police were extremely busy to make the sacred program peaceful and successful Inspector Sadiq Husain played the great roll to make the conference go on in a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

At 2.35 pm The Guest of Honor H E Dr Saleh Al – Jawarneh Ambassador of Jordan Embassy in Islamabad enter the Conference Hall.

Mr Aftab Anwar recited from the holy Christian Bible the Evangels in English.

Allama Chishti recited from the Holy Jewish Bible Taurah and Psalm in Hebrew Language.

Mr Imani recited from Holy Book Kitab-e- Aqdas and a Hindu fellow read passage from Gita.After recitation from the Holy Books of various religions Allama Abulfateh GR Chishti Chairman of UIPM was called to deliver his welcome and introductory sermon, and the following is the full text of his address.

> Introductory Address by Allama Abulfateh G R Chishti Chairman Universal Interfaith Peace Mission, On the occasion of the first

A Common Word Conference Held on13 April in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Hon`ble Minister, Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners Ulema and Scholars Distinguished Guests, the Guests of Honor representatives of like minded organization and media, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I myself and on behalf of our organization Universal Interfaith Peace Mission UIPM whole heartily and warmly welcome all of you to this sacred program of **A Common Word Conference**. I called the program sacred, because it is for the sacred cause of inter-religious or interfaith peace and harmony.

A Common Word is based on the Verse 64 Chapter 3 of the Holy Quran. God Almighty orders the prophet of Islam to invite Ahle – Kitab –Christian and Jews specially (and all other members of religious world generally) `Say O holders of Book let us come together on the word or term which is common between us and you`.

<u>The Message was renewed after 14 centuries</u> by His Majesty Shah Abdullah 11 Bin AL-Hussein King of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who belongs to the pure and pious progeny of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The King of Jordan looking into the present critical situation of Islam, Quran, Muslims and even the Prophet of Islam as widely spread misunderstandings about them and at the same time His Majesty endeavored to defuse the situation he issued the Ferman-Edict on 27th of Ramadhan 1425 AH corresponding to 9 November 2004 AD the night on which the Quran began to reveal to the prophet of Islam. The Ferman-Edict firstly was consisting upon three points for the end of notorious sectarianism in Islam which has really taken the shape of madness, i. e. 1) Who Is Muslim? 2) Is it allowed to declare some Muslim Fellow as apostate or infidel? 3) who has the right to issue Fatwa - verdict on behalf of Islam?.

Three Questions were sent to the competent authorities of Islam belong to all the recognized schools of thought through out the Islamic world. The answer was received in the form of a unanimous verdict, explaining that, 1) The one who recites the first Article of Faith – there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger is a Muslim and the one who denies the Article is non - Muslim. 2) There are 8 basic schools of thought of Islam belong to Sunni, Shieah Ahl –ul- Hadith, Salfi and Abadhi, the excommunication among them is prohibited. 3) The right of issuing a verdict on behalf of Islam would only be allowed and acceptable if it is issued by the competent and recognized authority and duly appointed by any of the recognized schools of thought of Islam.

These three points were further supported by 200 hundred Ulema and Scholars from the Muslim World. Also it was endorsed by Islamic Summit held in Jeddah by the OIC. More than 500 ulema and scholars from various schools of thought of Islam testified the three points of Amman Message. Especially Pakistan's prominent religious authorities such as Justice Taqi Usmani, Professor Mehmood Ahmad Ghazi, Dr Tahir-ul- Qadri and Allama Abulfateh G R Chishti are in long list of signatories of the Amman Message, which may be seen on the net.

Thus these three points of the Amman Message reached to the status of Ijma –e-Ummah-the consensus of opinion of the jurist of Islam.

Secondly it contained decisive teaching about the peace and harmony among the religions of the world.

The Ferman-Edict declared that, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has embraced the path of promoting the true luminous image of Islam. Islam orders Muslims to believe in all the Prophets of Allah so denying any of Prophet's teachings will be the deviation from Islam this provides the common ground and established the common plate form for the followers of the different religions to meet the other on the common points for the service of the society without encroaching upon creedal distinction.2:285 (Al Quran).

This Amman Message gave courage to the righteous Ulema and Scholars, so the 138 Ulema of Islam belong to all the recognized Schools of thought wrote an open letter to the Pope Benedict XVI of Vatican City and all the other notable Christian organizations inviting them to the gist of all the three monotheistic religions which can be explained in two points 1) The love of God and 2) The love of neighbor. On which the holy Scriptures of the both religions are agreed.

The invitation was welcomed by the Pope and all the Christian leaders, Jewish Rabies, all the Muslim Schools of Thought, which included the Ayatullahs of Iran and Najaf. as well as Abadhi Mrajea of Yemen'

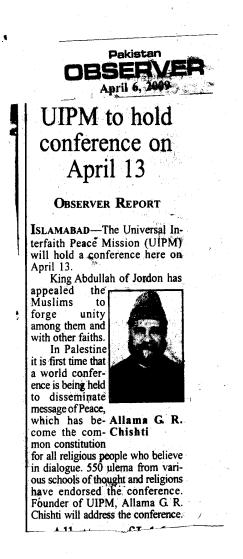
Thus the Message of Amman become the common constitution of all Islamic Schools of Thought and A Common Word as the starting point for interfaith Dialogue.

The Universal Interfaith Peace Mission has translated in Urdu the long letter consisting upon 20 thickly written pages in English.

The translation will be published and distributed in the Second A Common Word Conference in Lahore.

The Islamic Movement of Dialogue will be run under UIPM and it`s message would be spread in the masses of Pakistan by organizing conferences publishing leaflets, pamphlets and books in different languages and dialects, as well as lectures.

National Print Media Speaks about the First Common Word conference



`A Common Word Conference

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Sunday, March 29, 2009 The Nation

Interfaith harmony conference on April 13

OUR STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD- A Common World Conference will be held on April 13 with an aim to spread the message of interfaith harmo-ny, said Allama Abdulfateh G R Chishti on Saturday. Common World is a translation of the Quranic verse (64 of chap-ter 3).

The initiative springs from "Amman Message" by Shah Abdullah Bin Al Hussain II, King of Jordan.

or jordan. The message declares that Is-lam is a religion of peace, safety and security and it has teaching to have good relations with other religion and which have no link-ages with terrorism.

The proceedings of the Conference were covered by the National print and electronic media there were representatives from 15 news papers and about 8 T V Channels who perfectly communicated the message of the Conference. All the speakers delivered good words, some spoken in English while some other spoken in Urdu Language All speeches could not be covered here the complete lectures are on the video of the conference a edited and briefly video may be downloaded and watched on the website of UIPM at www.uipmisb.org.pk

At the conclusion Allama Chishti conveyed the word of thanks and the participants were requested to have refreshment arranged by the Universal Interfaith Peace Mission UIPM.

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