

# Servants of the people continued

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could meet the needs of people, and I began to attend the mosque. Before that, I had been in revolutionary movements — slightly, and had dabbled in left-wing ideologies, but I did, perhaps, in six months, what some experience over years before coming into the nation... that is, I checked out nearly every movement dealing with the problems of black people, because I became conscious of myself as a black person, and conscious of the needs of Black people.

"I attended civil rights organizations, and some of the socialist organizations, and none were satisfactory so I went to the temple. There I saw more of the involvement and social life-style of Muslims, and I found some personal things I didn't even know I was looking for. This was the brotherhood, the social and family life — I didn't know that I had been looking for that."

Imam Alim did take family life seriously, and later he found companionship and marriage. His wife, Sister Maryum, has borne four children: Aida, 10; Edward, 7; Camille, 5; and Malanie, 2-and-one-half. "They have all shared in" and contributed to his growth, he said.

Asked about the "sacrifices" made by his family while he endeavored to

propagate Islam, Imam Alim said, "Well, it has been accepted by my wife, and she has inculcated it into our children, that this is what we want to do, so moving and adjusting to a new group of Believers was not too much of a problem — so whatever is required, I am sure is not thought of as 'sacrifice.' They are "just as much in the post, as I am," he said.

Noting that the Chief Imam puts great stress upon family life and particularly attention to the needs of wives, he expressed a deep appreciation of the understanding displayed by his wife and family over the past years, when such attention was in general stressless in the face of the propagative priorities.

## WHAT SACRIFICE....?

"But, I guess I really deliberately shy from using the word sacrifice, because I've never viewed the things we've had to do as 'sacrifice.' Maybe they are, but I've found that whatever we've done, the rewards have been so tremendous, that to call what we have had to do or give up, sacrifice would not really be accurate.

"Technically, I guess in a way it is a sacrifice because you put off what you would normally want to do for the sake of something else; but to me the direct satisfaction from doing the work, and

the reward is so overpowering that it is difficult to view it as a sacrifice."

Reflecting upon some of his memorable experiences as Imam of Mosque No. 4, Alim cited "The first Jummah prayer we had in the mosque after we had converted this former temple into a mosque, and had a carpet down — it was memorable because it was a mosque built by the Honorable 'Elijah Muhammad, and as older Believers have recalled, he stood here in this mosque and prayed for more than an hour in opening this mosque.

"There is the historical significance of this building now becoming a mosque where people come to pray — as the Master had taught. He was building temples where they would be taught and one day come to pray.

## MEMORABLE EVENTS

"Another memorable event was an award and recognition given to us by the committees and the Believers here, and it was at a time that in the World Community of Islam, this type of thing was not happening. Our work and interchange was not necessarily always in complete agreement, but there was mutual respect for what we were doing.

"And another," he said, "was when we were asked by Dr. (Abdul) Rauf

(Islamic center director), to speak at an ecumenical conference, and in effect represent the Muslim community in a tri-religious (Jews-Christians-Muslim) discussion. Dr. Rauf, as you know, is a highly respected Imam, and scholar in Islam — so that was very remarkable.

"Still another," he said, "was that the Chief Imam gave us permission to allow television cameras into the mosque to televise an actual meeting, which I think was a first in the history of the Nation of Islam, and what resulted was a fairly objective picture of the Nation of Islam as it was at that time."

Not to be excluded, he said, are those events which have involved the "pioneers." "You know, besides Chicago and Detroit, Washington has the largest number of pioneers, and some of those go back to Master Fard Muhammad."

Envisioning a Washington of the future, Imam Alim hesitated upon a description, however, he said he would liken a future capital city to the scriptural prophesy: "eyes have not seen..." Physical blight, he said, will certainly be removed, because it will have been removed spiritually by the teachings of the Chief Imam. And while there may remain differences of heritages, a oneness will prevail.

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