

Serving the Community

By Samuel Ayyub Bilal

As Director of the Chicago New Earth Team (NET), Imam Ibrahim Kamal Ud-Din is helping to establish an exemplary social service agency.

NET was formed early last year as a new department of the World Community of Islam in the West (W.C.I.W.) headed by Chief Imam W.D. Muhammad.

"The Chief Imam instructed us to go out into the community and help in every righteous way we can," Imam Ud-Din said, explaining the goals of the group which currently operates primarily in two areas of the city: the Robert Taylor Homes (housing projects) and Roseland, a far-South Side community.

Practically all of Imam Kamal Ud-Din's activities, conversation, study and dreams evolve around those two areas.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATED

In them he lectures at many high schools, community centers, before block club meetings, community organizations, at convalescent homes, church committee groups, and business organizations.

On Thursday nights he lectures at the 8th and Wabash YMCA here.

He also frequently appears on radio interview programs, participates in conferences and negotiates with the area leaders on matters reflecting community concern and unity.

"In fact, unity in the community is becoming more and more a reality," he said, when reflecting on the progress NET has made in the two areas.

"And what is really so beautiful is that many of the leaders in the community work with us," he stressed.

He said those leaders include leaders of block clubs, community organizations, church committees, several church pastors, precinct captains and practically everyone who is interested in solving community problems.

Those problems include prostitution, burglary, narcotics traffic, auto theft, auto breaking and entering, armed robbery of stores and pedestrians, rapes, housing problems and jobs.

CREDITS MOSQUE MEMBERS

Imam Ud-Din credits much of NET's success to the dedicated members of the Roseland Mosque of Islam, over which he is the Imam.

"In the Roseland area, NET and the mosque are one operation. And many mosque members work very hard to carry out the instructions of the Chief Imam. They are responsible for many programs we sponsor in the area.

He noted that the last two large community affairs sponsored by NET reflected combined efforts of Roseland Mosque members, some other W.C.I.W. department heads, and leaders and members of the general community.

At one of the affairs, the Roseland



Imam Ibrahim Kamal Ud-Din

IMAM IBRAHIM Kamal Ud-Din (top photo) stresses point during one of his frequent lectures to community groups. In bottom photo he examines with friends a compilation of writings by Chief Imam W.D. Muhammad which are the basis of his work.

Community Fair, Imam Yusef Nasir Ahmad was guest lecturer.

More than 250 community residents heard Imam Ahmad deliver an electrifying lecture on the importance of the proper development of the community.

A group named "Seekers for Truth" provided music at the fair. At the second affair, Dr. Abdul Salaam and Dr. Mikal Ramadan participated in a three-day Health Seminar.

Salaam is Organizational President of the W.C.I.W. and he is also a highly regarded dentist.

Ramadan is director of W.C.I.W. Department of Health Care Services. They led workshops and lectured on general health, prenatal and child care, narcotics and alcohol abuse. Eye and blood tests were given and films were shown.

PRIDE IN COOPERATION

The Memphis born Imam proudly lauded the interdepartmental cooperation NET receives from other W.C.I.W. departments. He noted that NET will utilize several W.C.I.W. department heads when it sets up a model community service office for Robert Taylor Homes area residents.

NET, he indicated, is negotiating for office space in a nearby medical-shopping complex to set up the service center.

Among several services dispensed will be an emergency free food and clothing service, health counseling, child care, family counseling, youth counseling, and adult education service.

"Films will be shown on many things which the people will be interested in," he said. "Some of the films will show the Chief Imam on some of his travels around the world; others will show how people in other parts of the world live and relate to one another."

Imam Kamal Ud-Din remembered that already some of the top W.C.I.W. professionals and volunteers have contributed to NET efforts in the Robert Taylor Homes area.

QUALIFIED LECTURES

Dr. Ramadan has lectured on health matters there frequently and Dr. Abdul A. Shabazz, director of W.C.I.W. Department of Adult Education has also lectured there.

Several nurses and other women professionals also have participated in NET affairs in the area.

The Memphis born Imam has a deep rapport with the "little people" NET seeks to serve in the two areas: "Those are my kind of people — I came from them," he boasted.

Imam Ud-Din lives with his wife, Nisa, in a modest apartment on the city's South Side.

He was Imam of Mosque No. 28 in St. Louis before Chief Imam W.D. Muhammad brought him to Chicago in the early part of 1975.