

# Nation of Islam

By Mahal Ar-Rahim

The Chief Minister of the Nation of Islam, the Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad, set aside the regular "witness-bearing" Sunday, Jan. 18, 1976, to commemorate the courageous pioneers who became members of the Nation of Islam from the very beginning of the Mosque in Chicago, some 43 years ago.

He named this very special day, "The Nation of Islam Pioneers' Day," and allowed some of the pioneers to bear witness to the truth of Islam. Some very informative, enlightening accounts of their experiences, struggles and hardships proved the value of the early believers in that they stood against all opposition to carve out the foundation upon which the Nation of Islam stands today.

The Chief Minister said, "I know they all did not tell their ages, but most of them are 70 and over; and some of them are pushing 100. We must look out after the interest of our senior citizens to see that they get the best treatment." This day was established in honor of the pioneers of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam in the West.

## BROTHER KARIM ALLAH

One of our great pioneers, Brother Karim Allah, who has followed the Teachings of the Honorable Master Elijah Muhammad (peace of Allah be upon him) for 42 years, expressed the difficult task that the Messenger had been given by Master W.D. Fard at the inception of Islam in North America...

"His mission of bringing truth to a spiritually dead people was the hardest mission ever assigned to any man of any time, but he was the man for the mission. Think of the challenge, the hardship, and the struggle he had in his mission to give spiritual light to us, his people in America, who had given up hope of ever being rescued from our miserable state of condition that white mentality put us in."

He spoke of the magnitude of the mission and how hard the Messenger worked to accomplish this mission...

"He worked 16 hours out of 24, studying his people, planning different approaches to reach our dead brains. He knew that if he could reach our brains with the clear, sunshine teaching of Islam, this would bring about a thaw in our frozen brains, which would set them into motion and start us to rotating, doing something for self."

He spoke of the dedication that he and the early believers exemplified in helping the mission...

"We worked happily together. We were together in everything we did. We used to meet seven days. We never got tired of coming to the Temple."

He spoke of the laws that were taught to the early believers...

"He taught us not to play with Islam. He said he did not want the Muslims showing off in public. He taught us to obey the law, to go together, to work together, to fight together, to die together, to keep the peace in our



BROTHER SHELBY KARRIEM (left) Sis. Dorothy Hill Dorsey of Washington D.C., (center) and Sis. Maryam Muhammad are shown at the Salaam Cultural Center during a dinner honoring the pioneers of the Nation of Islam.



BRO. EDWARD ALI, former captain of the Fruit of Islam, is still standing as strong and moving as fast as he has been during his decades of service to the Nation of Islam.

homes, to be examples of Islam, to teach our children to behave in public, to be mannerable, to obey parents and the law, and to respect older people. This was his teaching and we obeyed."

Brother Karim Allah then expressed his feelings when the Messenger passed, but he vowed relentless support to W.D. Muhammad, the Messenger's son...

"I miss his beloved father. That is nature. I love his son just as I loved him. I will follow him and obey him, I stand before you to bear witness that W.D. Muhammad is the rightful heir to his father's mission."

He spoke of the New Day...

"We are in the dawn of a new day. W.D. Muhammad is the Lord of the Dawn. The old must give way to the new, and I seek refuge with the Lord of the Dawn. He is the divine authority. I am with him until death be the determinator."

Being there right from the start.

Brother Karim Allah watched our Chief Minister as he grew up to inherit the work of his father...

"He was different from the rest of his brothers and sisters. His ways were like his father's—meek, humble, and lamb-like."

He also spoke of the dangers of our Chief Minister's mission in the Second Resurrection...

"He is hated because he is unveiling the enemies of truth. He is the teacher of truth and he defends truth. Men of high positions are envious and jealous of him. We must stand solidly behind him regardless to the causes."

In his conclusion, Brother Karim Allah removed all doubt that we are in the new day...

"It shouldn't be hard for you all to adjust to the new day. The Messenger has been preparing us for it for many years. He brought us up to the door of the new world. His beloved son, Honorable W.D. Muhammad, is the

door to the new world. All who enter into the new world come by him. No confusion or misunderstanding should exist among us. Our longing for him produced him. He will reprove the world."

## SISTER VIOLA KARIM

Brothers did not tread alone along the rough, initial path of the early years. Faithful, strong, and dedicated sisters traveled right by their sides. Sister Viola Karim was a true pioneer for the sisterhood. In fact, Sister Karim selected and bought the material for the first MGT GCC uniform! Before she even began to discuss the struggles of the early days, she expressed gratitude to Allah for bringing her this far...

"I thank Allah that I was blessed to be one in the First Resurrection and He has blessed me to see the Second Resurrection."

Then, as all of the pioneers did, she expressed the conditions under which the early Believers had to practice Islam—conditions we know very little about today...

"We sat in the cold room without heat for two hours with our coats buttoned up and our suits on. One brother made a stove out of a garbage can and we would take turns to go and sit near it to try to warm up."

But, despite conditions of hardship, the pioneers struggled on. Sister Karim told of an incident that proved Allah's power. The enemy had attacked 16 brothers and 23 sisters...

"They turned the machine-guns loose on us. Not a Muslim died."

She spoke of even further proof of Allah's power to her father, who, as she put it...

"...thought the enemy had some big guns. Allah allowed our enemies to put the guns right to our heads, pull the trigger, and fired them. Didn't a blank go off?"

She spoke of the unity of the brotherhood even among extremely adverse conditions...

"My mother and I were cooking dinner getting ready to go to the Temple. Two carloads of FBI came, surrounded the house and knocked on the door as though they were going to tear it down. There were a few brothers they didn't get. When these brothers got the news, they drove around and picked up all the brothers they could find and went to the police station and told the police to lock them up, too, because they wanted to be where their brothers were."

She continued to speak of the storefront, dilapidated buildings that housed them for Mosque meetings. Truly, we today, must thank Allah for these pioneers and for the warm, comfortable, air-conditioned Mosques that we now enjoy. We gained these benefits through their dedication and sacrifice. In her conclusion, she spoke of our Chief Minister...

"I want to say that I thank Allah and I thank Allah for sparing me to be one to see the Second Resurrection. The mother of the Chief Minister told me

(Continued on page 11)