

# Over 30,000 hear Emam Muhammad in New York

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Associate Editor

Crowds of over 30,000 people packed various locations throughout the New York City area to greet and hear Emam Wallace D. Muhammad deliver the first of five major addresses during Ethnic Survival Week.

In addition, many thousands more heard portions of Emam Muhammad's address through a live broadcast over a local radio station.

Beginning in New York City on Feb. 19, at Radio City Music Hall, and ending at Chicago's Civic Opera House on Sunday, Feb. 26, an estimated 80,000 persons throughout the nation will have heard Emam Wallace D. Muhammad speak during this "Ethnic Survival Week."

Expanded from the previous one-day events of the past, this year's Ethnic Survival Week will feature Emam Muhammad addressing audiences in five major areas throughout the United States.

In addition to the New York and

Chicago addresses, the leader of the World Community of Al-Islam in the West will speak before packed audiences in Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 22; Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 23; and Los Angeles, Calif., Feb. 25.

This year's observance, concluding with the Chicago address, marks the beginning of the fourth year of Emam Muhammad's leadership of the WCIW. His topic during Ethnic Survival Week is, "The Dollar Advantage in a Culturally Enriched Society."

The highly respected reviver of religion (Mujeddid), concerned that Bilalians preserve the goodness of their ethnic heritage, has instructed his followers to also honor those great Bilalians of the past who dedicated their lives to the upliftment and growth of the Bilalian people.

Several programs and activities have been planned to honor the contributions of such outstanding persons as Frederick Douglass, David Walker, Harriet Tubman, Booker T.

Washington, Marcus Garvey, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

Ethnic Survival Week is an outgrowth of the previously celebrated Saviour's Day of the former Nation of Islam under the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad (peace be upon him).

As was traditional then, members came to Chicago for the annual event from all points of the U.S. They came by air and they came by land in cars, buses and trains, some incurring debts to do so.

The first year after assuming leadership of the WCIW, Emam Muhammad urged his followers not to make the annual journey to Chicago. Instead he asked them to attend regional closed-circuit television transmissions of his address live from Chicago.

Again, last year, live transmissions of his address from Chicago were televised to regional centers throughout the nation. In addition, several prisons listened to Emam



Muhammad's address live via telephone hookup systems.

By doing this, Emam Muhammad told his followers, more people will be able to hear the annual address without having to incur the costs of transportation to and from Chicago.

This year's event marks the best to date. Those persons attending the five regional centers will be able to hear and see Emam Muhammad in person.

## Duke University lecture cancelled...



*Editor's note: On Feb. 9, Emam Wallace D. Muhammad, widely respected leader of the World Community of Al-Islam in the West, was to have spoken before the student body at Duke University in Durham, N.C.*

*However, due to last minute complications his appearance had to be cancelled.*

*Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, a noted theologian and professor at Duke University was to have had the honor of introducing Emam Muhammad to his audience.*

*Bilalian News wishes to take this opportunity to share with our readers the eloquent remarks Dr. Lincoln had so thoughtfully prepared to deliver.*

Dr. C. Eric Lincoln's  
Introduction of  
Emam Wallace D. Muhammad

"When this nation was founded

## Dr. C. Eric Lincoln's eloquent introduction

200 years ago, the Founding Fathers had the intelligence and the foresight to write into our Basic Law a provision guaranteeing everyone the freedom of religious expression. Unlike most of the countries of Europe at that time, there would be no "establishment" of religion in America.

This country was founded by Christians, but the Jews came early to Colonial America, and ever since, Christianity and Judaism have been the characteristic religious expressions most familiar to the American people.

This is in some sense an anomalous situation, for there is a third religious flowering which shares a common rootstock with the Judeo-Christian tradition: it is Islam, a mighty religion which numbers its adherents in the hundreds of millions.

Strangely enough, Islam also came to America in her colonial infancy. It was the religion of many of the blacks who came here from Africa. However, because of the peculiar conditions of their coming, the Africans' religions were proscribed, and Islam was a casualty of the American adventure in chattel slavery. The Islamic traditions were eclipsed by the

exigencies of survival, and as the ordeal of slavery ran its course, the Africans in America, whatever their previous religions, accepted the prevailing American religion which was Christianity.

For all practical purposes, this remained the situation until the 1930s, when Elijah Muhammad became the leader of the Nation of Islam in a lifelong effort to establish in this country a knowledge and appreciation of Islam at the grass-roots level.

His mission was primarily to the black community, and in teaching them about Islam, he transcended all religions, and the whole black community learned some important things about self-respect, self-reliance and self-approval, hard work, and love and respect for each other.

Elijah Muhammad was a major force in the coming of age of the black American, and I am proud to have known him, and to have been his friend.

Almost three years ago, after more than 40 years of religious endeavor among the poor, the black and the dispossessed, Elijah Muhammad went to his reward, and in his place Wallace D. Muhammad, his fifth of six sons, was called

to lead the Nation of Islam.

A man of great wisdom and foresight, a devout Muslim whose training and whose temperament provide a distinctive edge for the unique leadership task which lies before him, Emam Wallace D. Muhammad has risen to the occasion in a manner that has cheered the Islamic community, and which has assured the world that the leadership of Islam in the United States is in good hands.

Wallace D. Muhammad does not stand in his father's shoes, but on his father's shoulders. The vista he sees from that vantage point is in broader perspective, and it is multi-dimensional. Under his leadership, the Nation of Islam has in orderly and timely transition become the "World Community of Islam in the West." Respected by Christians and Jews alike, it is bidding for a responsible place in that traditional triumvirate of great religions, here in America.

As one who has been a student and a friend of Islam for almost 25 years, it is a very great honor for me to present to you Chief Emam Wallace D. Muhammad, the distinguished leader of the World Community of Islam in the West.