

CALIFORNIA BRANCH MEETING TEMPLATE

July 14, 2023

- GREETING OF ATTENDEES up to the start at 1:30pm Pacific .
- FRAMING OF THE MEETING (tell participants the topic, the program sections in order, discussing generous listening and the intention that everyone at the meeting receives that which they need from the wealth of God's wisdom) – about 2-3 minutes
- OPENING PRAYER/ may be a surah or a dua from the heart
- READINGS FROM BAWA'S DISCOURSES – about 10-20 minutes
- REMINDER from the Patron of the California branch, Ahamed Muhaiyaddeen – about 10 minutes.
- VIDEO (we may give a short introduction) – about 30-60 minutes
- WISDOM SHARING DISCUSSION (guide discussion back to wisdom if it gets off point, use humor) – about 30-90 minutes as time allows
- No later than 4pm CLOSING PRAYER (dua, kalimah, read one of Bawa's prayer)
- SALAWAT (wisdom greeting the Light within our qalb, which is the Original Nur Muhammad
- SALAAMS & GOODBYE (i.e. "God Be With You")

10/28/2020

786

Dear Stephen Yusuf,

Finally getting around to responding to your request that we write down what has been shown to us about receiving Bawangal's words. It seems to apply to all the examples that he showed us of himself, regarding how to intend, control the mind, and act in our life. As you may remember, this came up when we were talking on the phone about how the quotations from Bawa's publications and recorded discourses are chosen for meetings. Here, with God's help, we go.

When we get up in the early morning for *Zikr* meditation, we usually have a cup of tea. *Astagh-firullahal-alim*, we then ask, in this inner opened heart, which of Bawa's books to read from this morning. Usually, within a few seconds, a book name comes, and we open that book. We then ask for guidance as to which reading to choose, inwardly saying "I cannot choose. You must choose." I open the book or pamphlet and start to skim anywhere that it opens, and the reading location soon comes, too. We then type up the pertinent teaching for that morning. We then do *Zikr* and then return to the text that I had typed up. We copy and paste the text it into an email. Then we re-read it, and ask for an open heart so that Bawangal can show what to type up—for us and all his children—from that morning's passage. (That is why we start the email with "This morning Bawa tells us..." It feels as though Bawangal has been speaking to us.)

When we do this, we usually get a strong "feeling" or instruction that such-and-so is what my children need to hear from me today. It is the words that touched my heart at that moment from the words of the teaching. It feels like a directive from Bawangal. There does not seem to be alternatives to choose from—this is what to type into the email for the morning message. All the while, it is clear to keep far from my heart's intention that sense of "I am reading," "I am deciding," "I am typing," "I am sending an email."

For our weekly meetings, we usually offer the same passages from the typed material for out loud reading during the meetings. Even if people have read them in the morning emails, hearing them again goes deeper and deeper into the meaning. Many people have told us that. Then again, we often use these same readings for the weekly Zoom meeting on Saturdays, sometimes using longer sections or adding a new reading that has been shown to us during the intervening days since the email. On Thursday or Friday each week, we re-read Bawa's words

in the email, and then ask for guidance to find a video discourse for Bawa to tell his children more about the readings. I look through the titles that are available, and the video seems pointed out. That will be the discourse that we view on Saturdays.

Of course, a lot of doubt comes from our mind after this process. Our mind chatters, “is that the right video?” Or, “Will the readings be confusing to our brothers and sisters at the meeting.” Or “Is there something better to choose?” These assail us, and we push back with *iman* to hold the dike from bursting and disrupting all the field crops that Bawa has just planted for us. Finally, when the actual meeting starts, it is clear that all the choices that Allah made for His children through the guidance we received were perfect. Worry disappears.

One other experience that we had might be mentioned. When sitting in front of Bawa one day in Philadelphia, he said that he should be the one speaking and the one listening to the discourse. What we got from that is: whenever listening, watching or reading a discourse, we ask Allah to be both the listener and the speaker, and to be guided by our Sheikh. We let the words and qualities offered by our Sheikh work on our inner heart—our *qalb*. We do this at all times as we are learning more and more, and it seems to be the way that we can be changed within the deepest way. Then we need to bring these changed qualities into action in our life. Bringing them into action is like typing the Truth with the inner typewriter that imprints God’s words (His qualities) onto our heart.

Brother, may all of your intentions to merge with God be fulfilled by Allah, Himself. Insh’allah, may any errors be forgiven—and may Allah’s intention be fulfilled in our intentions, words and actions.

Anbu,

David




Guide to Telephone and Online Fellowship Meetings

Dearest Siblings,

Here is an introduction to the kinds of telephone and online Fellowship Meetings. Many children have some experience in these online meetings and may have other solutions to share.

Please suggest any improvements that would be useful. Alhamdulillah. +**Graham Bell**,

gbell786@yahoo.com

	 FreeConferenceCall.com	 Zoom Video Conferencing	
Description	Free conference call	Zoom video meeting	Skype vide meeting
Platform	Any telephone	PC, MAC, mobile phone. Any phone for audio only	PC, MAC, mobile phone
How to Share a Meeting	Share phone number and access code	Share web browser link, pass code, and phone number for audio only	Share web browser link. No telephone
How to Start a Meeting	Dial the phone number and enter the access code to join	Click on web link, or use phone number for audio only	Click on web link
Do I need to Sign-up with login and password to join the meeting	No.	Yes. You can use these logins (if you have one already): Google, Facebook, your work's SSO, or your email address.	No. Easy video meetings with no sign ups or downloads.
How do I get a link and/or phone number for a meeting?	Use this one from the California Branch: (712) 770-4598 Access code: 619498	Free Zoom meetings end after 40 minutes so you should use a Zoom link from a paid account like this one:	Use this one: https://join.skype.com/QKYZsoCNUcNF If you need a new link go here: https://www.skype.com/en/free-conference-call/
What do I need to prepare for a meeting?	God's Qualities	God's Qualities	God's Qualities