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Publication of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee

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### Thank You!

This summer, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee hosted two fundraising events, one for the general operations of the organization and another for the construction of a new Masjid in Brookfield. We would like to thank all of those who made a contribution (payment or pledge) and we ask Allah (SWT) to reward and bless you and your families for your generosity. A list of donors appears on pages 22-23.

The Mercy and Love of Allah (SWT) for those who donate "fee sabeel Allah" (in the path of Allah) is potentially limitless. Only Allah (SWT) has full knowledge of the many ways in which funds donated to His cause will be attributed to his devoted followers. A simple donation to the ISM is used to fund a multitude of items and can provide a lifetime of rewards. Inshallah, you will be granted a share of the rewards for every single item that your donation funds! Inshallah you will share in the rewards that go to construct and maintain the multiple facilities in which thousands of individuals pray, learn, make their dua's, read and memorize the Qur'an, learn a hadith and get closer to their Lord. Inshallah, you will get a share of the rewards of ISM staff who discuss Islam with thousands of individuals each year. Inshallah you will get a share of the

(Continued on page 6)

#### **BREAKING NEWS**

As <u>ISM Today</u> was going to print, the horrific attack against innocent civilians at a shopping mall in Kenya was coming to an end. The terrorists who carried out the heinous and cowardly attack allegedly did not target Muslims, as if that would protect them from God's wrath. The killing of innocent civilians, Muslim or otherwise, is forbidden in Islam, and the terrorists, whatever their true beliefs, will be held accountable for their crimes. See the article on the value of human life which appears on pages 12-13.

#### **EID UL-ADHA**

ISM celebrates Eid ul-Adha on the same date celebrated by those on Hajj (Pilgrimage). This year, Eid ul-Adha will be on October 15 or 16. The exact date will be determined about one week in advance of Eid. We will post the date on our website (www.ismonline.org), our facebook page (facebook.com/ islamicsocietyofmilwaukee) and on our email list. If you want to join the ISM email list, please contact us at ismtoday@ismonline.org.

### Your ISM Today

Assalamu Alaikum all.

Alhamdulillah, the feedback for the first issue of ISM Today was extremely positive. When I ran for a position on the ISM Shura, one of the items I committed to establish was a regular ISM newsletter. I am thankful to Allah for giving me the ability and patience to make this a reality. Of course, a newsletter is the result of the efforts of many

people. I want to thank the ISM staff members who contributing to making this publication a reality. I also want to thank all those who took the time to share their news, to write an article or to place an advertisement. Finally, I want to thank you, the reader, for all of your encouragement. Please be involved in YOUR newsletter! Contribute news, opinion pieces, photos, interesting information

and advertisements! With your input and feedback, the newsletter will only improve. YOU are the fuel this newsletter needs to continue. Please email us at ISMToday@ismonline.org.

Thank you again! May Allah bring you happiness, success and wealth always.

Br. Ayman Alamy

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### From the Executive Director

Assalamu Alaikum Brothers & Sisters.

Subhanallah! This summer flew by way too quickly. We had some gorgeous days over the past few months, but the cooler days of September remind us that winter in Wisconsin may not be far off. Inshallah we will still have many nice fall days before the cold sets in!

The ISM was exceptionally busy these past few months. As expected, the blessed month of Ramadan was very hectic. Alhamdulillah, we witnessed record crowds throughout the month. The free childcare and babysitting that was offered by the ISM made it possible for both brothers and sisters to come to the Islamic Center and focus on their prayers and worship. On numerous days, including Fridays and the 27th night, our community members filled every available hall in the Masjid. Clearly, we are outgrowing our present facilities.

The ISM held two fundraising events in July, one for its general operating expenses and another for the new Masjid in Brookfield. Alhamdulillah, our community displayed its generosity in supporting the houses of Allah (swt). May Allah (swt) reward each and every one of you for your donations, both large and small. For the ISM to achieve its short term and long term goals of expanding its services and programs to the Muslim community and reaching out to the general population, we need your continued commitment and support.

Eid ul-Fitr this year was a wonderful gathering. About 1,000 people attended the 7:30am prayer at the ISM and over 3,500 people from all the masajid in Milwaukee enjoyed the beautiful sunny weather at Humboldt Park. We thank James Santelle, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, for visiting us at the prayer service. His kind remarks before the service were also appreciated. We also appreciate the efforts of the park personnel and deputies from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's department for ensuring that the celebration was safe and enjoyable. Finally, you can thank Allah (swt) for the absolutely beautiful, sunny day!

On the West side, the ISM's revised plans were approved by the City of Brookfield and a construction permit was issued at the end of July. Construction began the next day. By the end of August, excavation was completed, the footings were poured and foundation walls were constructed. By the middle of September, the masons began working on the outside walls and they completed the two story elevator shaft. Backfilling and most of the rough grading had also been completed and water and sewer lines were being installed. Over 300 truckloads of soil were trucked to the site, including 200 loads taken from the 5.4 acre parcel of land (behind the South side Islamic Center) that the ISM acquired from the State of Wisconsin last spring.

Our usual programs, including Sunday school and QAI, started up again in the middle of September. The ISM will be announcing other programs and events that will take place throughout the fall and winter months. (For Eid ul-Adha prayers, the ISM has reserved the Wisconsin Center (in downtown Milwaukee). The Eid is anticipated to be on October 15 or 16.

We continue to look forward to your input and suggestions. Please visit our offices, contact us at <a href="mailto:ismtoday@ismonline.org">ismtoday@ismonline.org</a> or contact me personally at <a href="mailto:omatta@ismonline.org">omatta@ismonline.org</a>.

Jazakum Allah Khair.

#### Othman Atta

# The Islamite Society of Milwankee would like to wish you

# Eid Mubarak

Eid Al-Adha Prayer will be on October 15th or 16th at 9:30am The exact date will be determined one week in advance.

> Wisconsin Center 400 W. Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53202

For more information, visit out website www.ismonline.org
Or our Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/islamicsocietyofmilwaukee



\*\*\*For Muslims working on Eid, an early prayer service will be held at the ISM at 7:30am sharp!



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# Join the ISM Book Club

Meet every Friday - 7:00pm-9:00pm Art Room (ISM—Lower Level)

#### **Current Book:**

How to Read the Qur'an: A New Guide, with Select Translations

By Carl W. Ernst

(This book is used as a text book at Zaytuna College)

### Community News

### **Congratulations On Your Newborn!**

The ISM would like to congratulate:

- Ziad Nwilati and his wife Razan Nwilati on the birth of their son, Mohammad Humam
- Haitham and Hiba Abu Samhadana on the birth of their son, Laith Abu Samhadana



We wish them a life full of joy and a heart full of Iman.

### Congratulations on your Marriage

In Islam, marriage is equated with "completing half of one's faith".

The ISM would like to wish our newlyweds a long and happy and healthy married life together, in-



sha'Allah. Congratulations to you and your families!

- ♦ Mohammad Mansour & Inas Murrar
- ♦ Moath Sarsour & Faiqa Oweisi
- ♦ Amjad & Safa Amli
- Tariq Bahhur & Rana Ayyash
- Michael Madouse & Fatmeh Hamdan

### **Congratulations on your Engagement**

May Allah bless your engagement and grant you a beautiful and happy marriage.

Medhat Hamed & Abrar Sarsour

### **Our Condolences**

### إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

Inna Lilahi wa Ina Ilaihi raji'oun. To Him we belong and to Him we shall return. The ISM would like to extend our condolences to the families who lost someone dear to their hearts.

- Sr. Sanaa Ahmad, sister of Adnan Ahmad and the aunt of Muhammad Adnan, Abdullah Adnan, Ibrahim Adnan, Yaser Shaiban, Muhammad Shaiban
- Br. Muhammad Obeidat, father of Khaldoun
   Obeidat and father-in-law of Maha Atout
- Br. Mutiul Haq, father of Sr. Afroz Hasan and father-in-law of Br. Ahmad Siddiqi
- Dr. Yousef Kurdi, father of Mohammad Kurd
- ♦ Sr. Hajjar Mubarak (Um Rumzi), aunt of Salam School teacher, Muna Mubarak
- Sr. Lejla Crujlic from Manitowoc, Wisconsin
- Mrs. Nasreen Jannisar, mother of Salam School teacher, Sr. Alveena Sheikh
- Br. Zafar Naim, husband of Shamim Naim, father of Nazmi Husayn and father-in-law of Khalid Husayn
- Sr. Yusra Sarsour, mother of Abdel Hakim Al-Mousa & Khaled Al-Mousa, and aunt of many community members from the Sarsour family.
- Sr. Izath Unisa Khan, mother of Dr. Mir Waliuddin Khan
- Sr. Mesada Hussein Ali Asad, the wife of Ezat Ibrahim Muhsin and the mother of Saif Muhsin and Eman (Um Abdallah)
- ♦ **Br. Abdul Wahab,** maternal uncle of Mohammad Fareed and Sr. Tahira

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### ISM Community Outreach

A major goal of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee is to reach out to the general public and to establish ties with other communities and faith groups.



Pictured: First Congressional UCC of Tomah during their visit to the ISM

The ISM is actively involved with a number of interfaith organizations throughout the metropolitan area, including the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. Employees and board members of the ISM also speak to

public groups on a weekly basis. Some talks are held at the ISM while others take place at churches, universities, businesses and a variety of other locations. Alhamdulillah, since the establishment of the ISM, we have reached tens of thousands of people. We continue to plan future activities where we can reach a wider segment of the community. Above is a picture of the First congressional UCC of Tomah during their visit to the ISM.

#### **Outreach Chair Activities of the Month**

- Participated in the Sikh memorial services.
- Attended the Friday remembrance of the Six departed souls at the U.S. Federal Court house in Milwaukee hosted by **James L. Santelle, U.S. Attorney**.



- Attended the Chardhi Kala 6K Memorial Run & Walk honoring those who were lost on August 5, 2012, on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Oak Creek High school.

NEEDED

Big Sisters and Big Brothers for

NEW Muslims

Please contact Sr. Inshirah for more details

### **New Shahadas**

Welcome to Islam and May Allah Bless you and your families!

- \* Sr. Nancy Hen
- \* Sr. Mercedes
- \* Sr. Katherine Dumez
- Br. Michael Walker
- \* Sr. Shelby Luns Ford
- \* Sr. Stephanie Arellano



**Sr. Linda Eid** has taken Shahada on Friday July 26, 3023. Sr. Linda is 25 years old, married to Ali Eid, and has a 5 1/5 month old son, Haza. She moved to Kenosha 3 years ago; Sr. Linda is originally from Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania. Congratulations Sr. Linda and welcome to Islam!

### The Amazing Faith Dinner Projects

I would like to invite our community members to participate in The Amazing Faith Dinner Projects.

The Amazing Faith Dinner Project is a program that is sponsored by the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. This program brings people of various faiths together so that all may learn about the beliefs and faith traditions of others through exploration and dialogue.

These events take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and enable everyone involved to stand as witness for tolerance and understanding.

The format: a group of 8 - 10 people gather in one of the participants' homes over a very light meal. One of the participants is a moderator who will facilitate the discussion.

Please contact Inshirah Farhoud if you are interested in participating in one of the dinner projects.

Inshirahf@aol.com or 414-313-1595.

### Food Drive for Syrian Refugees

The Milwaukee Muslim Community, including Masajid and other Islamic organizations in Milwaukee, came together to provide humanitarian assistance for the refugees in Syria. The effort was also supported by donations from individuals outside of the Muslim community. Over one weekend, an entire container of food was collected and shipped to Turkey by the relief organization "Helping Hand". From Turkey, the food aid will be transported by truck into Syria to provide needed aid for the innocent Syrians who are suffering as a result of the current war. The Islamic Society of Milwaukee would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations that contributed to this wonderful humanitarian effort.



Insha'Allah we look forward to sending more containers of food in the future.





### ISM Blood Drive for the Blood Center of Wisconsin

On Tuesday September 24, 2013, the ISM held its regularly scheduled blood drive in the Islamic Center gym. Alhamdulillah (all thanks is to God), 29 units of blood were donated by our members to benefit hospitals in our area. We thank all those who donated and we hope to see more of you at our next drive.

#### (Continued from page 1) THANK YOU

rewards for the assistance that the ISM provides to refugees, to people in need, to orphans and to individuals and families that are experiencing great difficulties. Inshallah, you will get a share of the rewards from our educational programs for adults and youth. Inshallah, you will also get a share of the rewards from the activities of various Muslim organizations that utilize the ISM facilities for their programs and to raise funds for their projects. This past Ramadan, the ISM hosted fundraising efforts for the Muslim American Society, the Milwaukee Muslim Women's

Coalition, the Milwaukee Community and Health Center, the Da'wa Center, Clara Muhammad School and others. Inshallah you will get a share of all their efforts as well.

Imagine. If even one penny of your donation is attributed to the benefit of humanity, such as the education of a student who becomes a devout, active Muslim or Muslimah, you can receive rewards in this life and even after you pass away. (Isn't that what Sadaqa Jariya is all about?!)

Again, we would like to thank each and every one of you for your generosity and we ask Allah (swt) to bless and reward you and your families.

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### **Events at the ISM**

- On Saturday, September 21, the ISM hosted the AFS foreign student exchange conference. In attendance were dozens of foreign exchange students, including students from several Muslim countries, as well as their host families. The AFS program is seeking Muslim families to host students in the future.
- On Saturday, September 21, 2013, a lecture entitled "Building Beautiful Minds" was held at the ISM. The program was sponsored by the relief organization "Helping Hands". Brother Nasser Aziz, a professor at LUMS who received his MBA from Yale University was the presenter.
- On Friday, September 20, 2013, the ISM hosted a group of international visitors from Bulgaria. The United States Department of State has an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in which leaders from around the world are invited to the United States to meet with leaders in various fields. Our Bulgarian guests, most of whom were Muslim, engaged in discussions with ISM leaders, took a tour of Salam School and attended Juma' prayers. On July 26, leaders of the ISM met foreign visitors at the Islamic Resource Center and had a discussion about Muslim organization's role in religious advocacy and education. The visitors were from Egypt, Guinea, Laos, the Philippines and the Federated States of Micronesia.
- On Friday, September 12, 2013, the ISM hosted Br. Osama Abu Irshaid, the founder and editor in chief of Al-Meezan newspaper and a frequent guest on Al-Jazeera News. Br. Abu Irshaid was a guest speaker at the Arabic Jalsa on September 12<sup>th</sup> discussing the significance and future of the Egyptian revolution. Br. Abu Irshaid was joined in the discussion by Imam Ziad Hamdan.
- On August 23, Dr. Mohamed Beshir was hosted by the ISM to deliver a lecture titled, "How to Attain Paradise in Our Homes: Spousal Relations & Parenting Relations". Dr. Beshir is a leading expert on parenting and resolving family issues from an Islamic perspective. MAS Milwaukee brought Dr. Beshir to Milwaukee and they hosted a positive parenting skills workshop with Dr. Beshir on August 24th at the ISM
- During the months of August and September, the ISM hosted a number of groups that came to the ISM to learn more about Islam and Muslims. The visitors included a group of nurses who wanted to know more about Islam and Muslims so that they could provide better services to their Muslim patients; a group of students from the Urban Emerging Program; and several church groups.

### President's Message

The following is a summary of remarks that were delivered by the ISM President at the ISM West groundbreaking ceremony on July 12, 2013.

Assalaamu Alaikum, brothers and sisters:

Building a masjid is an Islamic and Prophetic tradition. One of the first things that Prophet Muhammad (SAAW) did when he entered Medina was to build a masjid, the masjid of Quba. Subsequently, wherever Muslims have gone, they have built masjids for their needs in that community.

When I came to Milwaukee in 1964 as a young child, there were no masjids. Now, there are seven masjids in the greater Milwaukee area and today, insha'Allah, we begin the eighth...

Let us ask ourselves, why do we need a masjid to begin with? ... (We) do need a masjid for collective prayer. However, is the mosque only for prayer? No. The masjid, especially for our communities in America, is the center for all Islamic activity as it used to be in the masjid of the Prophet in Medina. In those masjids, not only prayers took place, but also it was a school of knowledge where companions used to study the Quran and ask questions. In fact, the masjid extended to the care of the needy and orphans, and the sick as well as a place for giving Dawa to non-Muslims. Thus, our masjids are not only places of prayer but also, a place for seeking Islamic knowledge for Muslims and non-Muslims, where our children can receive an Islamic education, where community social functions can take place...

Dawa to non-Muslims in this country is a necessity and a tool of survival. Imam Fakhri Al Razi said 500 years ago "that we should cease to divide the world into Darul Kufr and Darul Harb but, divide it according to Darul Islam and Darul Dawa". If any part of the earth is not Darul Islam, they are all in need of dawa. Brookfield and Waukesha County are desperately in need of dawa...

I believe that the principle purpose of this masjid and all masajid in this country should be to unite our hearts in love for Allah (SWT) and His messenger (SAAW). Let us make this masjid and all masajid in Milwaukee sources of unity and mutual love and respect for the sake of Allah (SWT). Let us hold altogether firmly to the rope of Allah and not let go. In coming together today, let us remember that we come together to support each other and that all praise belongs to Allah (SWT) alone.

Attorney Ahmed J. Quereshi, ISM President

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### ISM WEST - Construction Commencement!

This summer was a blessed time for the ISM West Masjid project. From a formal ground-breaking event with the community, to a successful fundraiser, and finally commencing work at the site, the masjid construction activities went into full gear.

Early in Ramadan, the ISM West Task Force organized a formal ground-breaking event with the community. Alhamdulillah, over 200 people attended, with representation from every masjid across Milwaukee. As the event was ready to commence with the Asr prayer, Sheikh Zulfiqar reminded everyone to first start by offering the masjid greeting prayer, Tahiyatul-Masjid. Finally, with the blessing of Allah (SWT), the project felt real. Following the salat, a project update was provided, along with short spiritual talks from



Sheikh Zulfiqar and Qari Noman. The official ground-breaking then took place with leaders of the Task Force and other respected leaders of the community. The event concluded with a heartfelt duaa by Imam Hafiz Shafique.

In the middle of the Ramadan, the ISM West Fundraiser event was held. Alhamdulillah, over 300 people attended and generously supported the project. With a goal of \$500,000, the community was able to raise and exceed, with Allah's blessings, over \$520,000. We were also privileged to have Mufti Husain Kamani as our guest speaker, who beautifully presented the merits and significance of being part of this moment in history, and how one's generosity would be multiplied manifold in the Hereafter. The success of the event allowed the construction of the masjid to finally begin. Many thanks to the entire community for your support.

Following issuance of the construction permit during the last third of Ramadan, excavation work began. A significant amount of asphalt was encountered along the way, requiring additional fill. In addition, the temporary retention pond was also dug out as per City of Brookfield requirements.

In the months of August and September, the foundation was poured, masonry work began and a substantial amount of grading was completed, including over three hundred truckloads of fill. In the next few weeks, the metal beams should arrive for

the new building and the metal tool shed in the front of the property will be demolished. Insha'Allah, Br. Nabil, the Project Manager, is trying to construct and close the shell of the building by winter. With your continued support and duas, we hope and pray to offer Taraweeh prayers next Ramadan in the new masjid. Inshallah!

Lateef Khan, ISM Secretary and ISM West Task Force Member



# ISM WEST CONSTRUCTION



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### The Value of Human Life



Human life is sanctified by Allah (SWT) and no one is allowed to take a human life except through lawful means promulgated by Allah (SWT) in the Holy Qur'an. The first human, Adam, was created from dust and given the gift of a soul. This divine gift of a soul dignifies all humanity as the soul is the common denominator in all human beings. The

Qur'an states in Verse 85 of Surah Bani Israel:

"They ask you concerning the "ruh" (soul). Say: The soul is by command of my Lord, and the knowledge of it that you have been granted is minimal."

Allah (SWT) is the Khaliq (Creator), who creates and fashions every human being by Himself. He is the Musawwir, the one who creates the image of each individual, be it a man or a woman. He has complete knowledge of all human beings and his love for His creation surpasses any other love. It is for this reason that Allah (SWT) does not allow anyone to destroy a human life except by legal process for murder or serious wrongdoing upon the earth. This rule outlining the sanctity of human life was promulgated at the beginning of humanity and the lesson is tied to the first murder involving the two sons of Adam which is addressed in verses 27-32 of Surah al-Maidah (5). The selection ends with the following: "For that cause, We decreed for the Children of Israel that whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or serious corruption on the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind.

Therefore, killing one innocent soul is equal to killing all of humanity and saving one soul is tantamount to saving all of humanity.

The soul of a believer carries further sanctification due to its special faith in and relationship with Allah (SWT). Premeditated murder of a believer results in five kinds of divine punishment: Hellfire, eternal condemnation to Hellfire, the wrath of Allah, the curse of Allah and chastising punishment. The Qur'an states in Verse 93 of Surah al -Nisa' (4):

# وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَاؤُهُ جَهَنَّمُ خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَغَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْه وَلَعَنَهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُ عَذَابًا عَظيمًا

Whosoever kills another believer intentionally his recompense is Hell to abide therein (forever): and the wrath and the curse of Allah are upon him and a dreadful penalty is prepared for him.

The Prophet (SAW) informed us that a believer's intentional murder of another believer is equal to Kufr (disbelief/rejection of faith).

"Abusing a Muslim is Fusuq (an evil doing) and killing him is Kufr (disbelief)." (Narrated by Abdullah B. Masu'd)

The Prophet also said:

"A person remains within the fold of his faith as long as he does not shed unlawful blood."

Another Hadith of the Prophet (SAW) that was narrated by Anas bin Malik states:

### The Value of Human Life

"The biggest of Al-Kaba'ir (the great sins) are (1) to join others as partners in worship with Allah, (2) to murder a human being, (3) to be undutiful to one's parents (4) and to make a false statement," or "to give false witness." From this hadith, we understand that murder is the second major sin, second only to Shirk (association of anything or anyone with Allah (SWT)."

Allah (SWT) will not forgive intentional murder of an innocent believer.

Allah (SWT) may forgive any sin except the person who murders a believer intentionally or the one who dies in the state of disbelief.

The Prophet (SAW) said: "Extinction of the world is "lesser" upon Allah than the murder of a Muslim.

Blood disputes will be the first items to be settled on the Day of Judgment. Intentional murder disqualifies the perpetrator from repentance.

In a narration by Said bin Jubair regarding the people of Kufa who disputed about Verse 93 of Chapter 4, Ibn Jubair went to Ibn Abbas and was told: "This Verse: 'And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell,' was revealed last of all (concerning premeditated murder) and nothing abrogated it."

مُغيرَةٌ بْنُ النَّعْمَانِ، قَالَ: سَمعْتُ سَعيدَ بْنَ جُبِيْرٍ، قَالَ: آيَةٌ اخْتَلَفَ فِيهَا أَهْلُ الكُوفَة، فَرَحَلَتُ فِيهَا إِلَى ابْنِ عَبَاسٍ فَسَأَلْتُهُ عَنْهَا، فَقَالَ: " نَزَلَتْ هَذه الآيَةُ: {َوَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَاقُهُ جَهَنَّمُ} [النساء: 93] هِيَ آخِرُ مَا نَزَلَ، وَمَا نَسَخَهَا شَيْءٌ"

And in a hadith narrated by Abu Huraira, he said that the Prophet (SAW) said: Whosoever assists in the killing of a believer, even with a word, shall meet Allah (SWT) and it shall be written before his eyes: "Disqualified from Divine Mercy".

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: " مَنْ أَعَانَ عَلَى قَتْلٍ مُؤْمِنٍ وَلَوْ بِشَطْرِ كَلَمَة، لَقِيَ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مَكْتُوبٌ بِيْنَ عَيْنَيْهِ: آبِسٌ مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ .

When we look at what is going on in Egypt, Syria, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and many other parts of the Muslim world, we find that Muslims are killing other Muslims for political, ethnic, sectarian and financial reasons. For instance, the Egyptian army and police have killed scores of innocent civilians who were mostly peaceful, demonstrating for a legitimate democratic cause. They should have been allowed to continue their peaceful demonstrations without disruption so long as they did not seriously disrupt the peace and stability of the nation. On the other hand, the Egyptian security forces and their commanders chose to end the demonstrations by killing hundreds of innocent civilians, men, women and children, and in many cases, burning both the dead and alive. Such acts which are made in total disregard of human life and human dignity are totally unacceptable, unwarranted, immoral, unethical and, above all, un-Islamic. The eternal punishment for these individuals has already been established. They must be held accountable in this world as well.

#### Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah, ISM Religious Director

Khutbas and lectures on YouTube:

http://www.youtube.com/

Review Dr. Shah's Friday

DrZulfigarAliShah

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## Preparing Children for Going Back to School



Children of all ages face many of emotions as they prepare to return to school. There are many steps parents may take to ensure their child's transition from summer break to school.

**First**, support early literacy. Taking children to the library, bookstores and story circles are extremely important to helping

develop a love for reading. Read to your children and have them read to you, model the behavior you wish your child to imbue. Build up their own home library with books, magazines and other print media. Keep books and magazines all over the house.

When they chant 'I'm bored,' have them read and retell a story. Advise them to change the ending. Have them change the attributes of a character in the story and tell of a different outcome. Have them draw pictures of what the meaning of the story was and narrate the story to you and their siblings.

There exists a plethora of books that are Islamically appropriate for children. Invest in them for your home libraries. Narrate stories from the Quran for your children and discuss the beautiful attributes of the prophets and the attributes of Allah. This will help develop them to develop good character.

Second, establish the routine you wish your child to follow once school starts. Make sure to establish a bedtime routine at a good hour. Children in elementary school should get at least 10-12 hours of sleep. Wake them up at the time you would for school. Routines tend to slip during the summer and especially during Ramadan. The sooner you can start the back to school routine, the better it will be for your children, and the easier it will be for you. Be sure also to feed them a good breakfast that is healthy. Sugary cereal is not recommended. Brains need energy to function. Under no circumstances should a child come to school not having eaten a healthy meal.

**Third,** while you are shopping for school supplies, it's okay to purchase that one or two trendy items that they desire, even if they are a bit expensive. This is one of the very minor things that you can do to boost their self-esteem. Host a special "Back-to-School" dinner or event in your home and allow your children to express their feel-

ings about starting school. For the younger set, take them to the school before it officially opens and have a tour with them. Salam School hosts 'Open Houses' for families prior to school opening. Be sure to help your child get organized and stay organized. Coming into the school daily to 'make sure' your child has everything is enabling them, not helping them. You want your child to be somewhat independent with regards to his/her school work.

**Fourth,** schedule a conference with your child's teacher early in the school year to discuss your child's specific needs and other matters. Discussing your child while he is present and at times when the teacher is busy such as open house and dismissal time is not the appropriate time. Here we cannot stress the importance of communication.

Be an advocate for your child and have open and honest conversations with his/her teacher. Many teachers post their lesson plans and expectations to the EDLINE gradebook system at Salam School. Be sure to check and follow up with your child with regards to assignments. Showing a genuine interest in what they are doing and learning develops bonds and nurtures the relationships between parents and their children.

**Fifth,** schools have many rules and policies that families should be aware of. Take time to read through the school literature to familiarize your family with such policies. Not knowing is not an excuse. Discuss some of these expectations with your children. Implement a reward system at home for good behavior and always try to focus on the positive.

Learning can be a wonderful adventure. Parents, teachers and the school should always work together to benefit our children. May Allah (SWT) bless our school, our families and our community.

Khawla Asmar, M. Ed. Vice Principal, Salam Elementary School

#### **DID YOU KNOW:**

Salam School has an enrollment of 750 students from K4-12th grade. It is one on the largest Islamic Schools in the U.S.

## ISM PICNIC



### **Green Tip of the Month**

Growing and buying local and sustainable food are good for you, our community, our farmers and the environment.

"It is He Who produces gardens, with trellises and without, and dates, and tilth with produce of all kinds, and olives and pomegranates, similar (in kind) and different (in variety): eat of their fruit in their season, but render the dues that are proper on the day that the harvest is gathered. But waste not by excess: for God loveth not the wasters." The Quran 6:141

Food tastes better and is more nutritious when it's fresh, i.e., locally grown food that is in season. Foods grown using organic farming practices come to your table with no harmful pesticides. Replacing heavily processed foods with whole fresh produce is a great way to start towards a healthier lifestyle.

Keeping our local farmers and producers in business supports our local economy. When farmers sell directly to their neighbors through a <u>community supported agriculture (CSA)</u> plan, they then can afford to stay on their land producing an abundance and variety of food while being good stewards of the land.

Most of the food we eat travels an average of 1,500 miles from the farm to our table. By reducing the travel distance our food, we save energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to climate change. By growing and buying local foods, we also reduce packaging, further saving energy and resources. In addition, sustainable farming practices protect the quality of our water and soil, while preserving green space for healthy native habitats.

Farm Fresh Atlas
Southeastern Wisconsin
2013

Local Groups: The Farm Fresh Atlas TM of Southeastern Wisconsin is a local food guide for the Milwaukee metropolitan area and surrounding counties. The Atlas features farms and businesses that:

- Are family or cooperatively owned
- Operate in a way that protects and sustains the region's land and water resources
- Provide safe and fair working conditions
- Produce, use, or sell Wisconsin farm products

The *Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin*, a volunteer group formed in 2005, intends to educate its members, the Muslim community and the general public about the Islamic environmental teachings, to apply these teachings in daily life and to form coalitions with interfaith environmental organizations in Wisconsin working toward a just, peaceful and sustainable future.





### What's Going on Behind our Masjid?



Last spring, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee purchased 5.4 acres of land west of the Islamic Center from the State of Wisconsin. The land became available following the reconstruction of the Layton interchange and I-94. To use the land, the ISM needs to remove the mountain of dirt placed there following highway reconstruction. The ISM has to pay the cost of removing the dirt. In the past few weeks, the ISM has trucked several hundred loads of dirt to the ISM West construction site. Several hundred loads have also been trucked to private parties. Inshallah, as part of its short term plans, the ISM will try to enlarge its parking lot by expanding west onto the new land.

# Financial Solutions with a Smile and a Handshake

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### What is Counseling?

Talking to someone helps you to see your problems more clearly. It enables you to explore a variety of possible solutions. It also helps you to face up to and learn to work through the causes of your distress or anxiety.

Counseling aims to help you to help yourself. Counseling helps you understand why you feel the way you do and it helps you explore and plan how to manage emotional and practical realities. Counseling supports you in making the right decisions for yourself, but not by yourself. Counseling gives you the space to explore who you are and what really matters to you. Counseling can be a very positive experience. Counselors work in a way that enables you not to be dependent on them. They support you to believe in yourself and to trust your own judgment.

Common Myth: Counseling and psycho-therapy is only for those who have severe mental illness or are weak. This is absolutely not true. Counseling is available to all people in various walks of life and it is not something to be ashamed about. Would you consider going to the gym and working on your body a shameful act or a sign of weakness? Of course not! Counseling is about working on your inner self and finding peace in your life. To work on one's self takes great strength and courage because it is about having respect for yourself. This is not a sign of weakness or something to be ashamed about.

Who can benefit from counseling?

We all experience stressful times in our lives and sometimes it can feel a bit too much. No matter how hard we try, we feel unable to cope and we may feel depressed and anxious. Counseling may allow you to get through these difficult phases. If the symptoms are more severe, a physician may prescribe medication. A combination of medication and counseling often works very well.

#### Fact:

Many people can benefit from some psycho-therapy. Many of us have feelings of emptiness in our lives, feelings that we are not able to fill, despite repeated attempts. Psycho-therapists can help you lead a more fulfilling life. They can help you break down the barriers that prevent you from achieving your goals and realizing your full potential.

#### Who can benefit from Psycho-therapy?

ANYONE WHO:

- 1) Has conflicts with parents or children
- 2) Has difficulty making and maintaining relationships
- 3) Has chronic fatigue
- 4) Has problems with anger
- 5) Is in an abusive relationship
- 6) Has anxiety, depression and stress
- 7) Has low self esteem
- 8) Has body pain that cannot be explained medically
- 9) Feels compelled to addiction drinking, drugs, sex and gambling to name the more serious ones.
- 10) Has on and off thoughts of harming oneself or others

Sohail Majeed, Licensed Professional Counselor-IT Marriage and Family Therapy ISM Today will periodically run articles of personal opinion from our readers. These articles do not necessarily represent the opinion of ISM Today or ISM. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please email us at ISMToday@ismonline.org).



# Opinion: Why Do They Hate Us?

By: Nabil Salous

More than 75% of the refugees around the world are Muslim. The global wars during

the last few decades have almost all involved Muslim countries. The negative view toward Islam and Muslims has reached an unprecedented level. Internally, many Muslim countries are suffering from a variety of ailments, including the lack of respect for human life, the lack of respect for basic human rights, the squandering of national resources, corruption, oppression and poverty.

Two general theories are sometimes used to explain the gloomy and desperate state of Muslim societies. I feel that both are generic and superficial. The first is the "conspiracy theory". Proponents of this theory allege that many of those in the West hate our belief system, our values and our way of life. They are said to be determined to defeat Muslims and to keep them in a state of dependency and subservience. The second theory is usually propagated by Muslim religious leaders. Under this theory, problems in the Muslim world can be attributed to the failure of Muslims to abide by the precepts of their faith, by their desertion of their mosques and a result of their adoption of Western values. Under this theory, the implication is that Muslim actions have resulted in "the punishment of Allah" and that the state of misery facing the Muslim ummah is a result of the ummah's sins.

I believe that the Muslim world has lost the dynamic spirit which — for centuries — was a defining characteristic of this great faith. I believe that many contemporary Muslim societies have only retained the name "Islam" and its rituals and are suffering from intellectual and organizational rigidity. Many who adhere to Islam seem to focus on adherence to literal rules rather than trying to understand the spirit of their faith. I feel that it is misleading and counterproductive to inject the name of Islam in front of every business, financial institution, organization and political party. Sadly, even extremist and terror groups that have nothing to do with Islam often incorporate the term "Islam" in their name and falsely claim to be acting on behalf of Muslims. Using the term Islam in an institution that does not uphold the values of Islam only serves to confuse those who cannot distinguish between …?

Some of the basic values of our faith as Muslims include equality, truth, justice and morality. These values are not only powerful, they are also eternal. These values are not tied to boundaries, ethnicities, races or powers. Unfortunately, some Muslims seem to be desperate to establish an "Islamic State", as if our mission as Muslims is to gain power and control territories. Have we forgotten that every empire and dynasty that ever existed in history has crumbled and ultimately disappeared? There is not a better example than the experience of Muslims in Spain, who controlled the region for about 800 years.

They built powerful armies, beautiful mosques, fortresses, and palaces with elaborate gardens. However, they failed to plant the seed of faith in the hearts and minds of the local community. There was a failure to build an indigenous Islam and to transform the society. There was also a failure to present a governance system that was inclusive and transparent. In summary, they lost track of their mission. And we still wonder why they were defeated and driven out?

Many Muslims have developed the erroneous attitude that their great faith makes them superior to others and that they should therefore be in control. Following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, such Muslims have made the establishment of an Islamic state to be their primary mission, vision, strategy and goal. When such individuals come into power, their narrow policies alienate others. In some cases, their reckless remarks are taken seriously by other more powerful and influential countries.

Many Muslim organizations in Muslim countries are involved in running religious, social, and humanitarian programs. They have not only developed knowledge and experience in these areas, but they have also achieved measurable success and made a substantial difference in the lives of many. These types of activities are consistent with the higher objectives of the Islamic Sharia and are consistent with our mission as Muslims. Unfortunately, when some of these organizations are faced with political opportunities, they enter into the political process thinking that political power will strengthen their foundation and improve their standing. They quickly find themselves in unfamiliar territory and they are not equipped with the responsibility of governing. They find themselves on a collision course with others in the society, including their fellow practicing Muslims. Compounding their problems is the fact that they are faced with the daunting task of trying to establish the rule of law in countries where corruption and lawlessness had become an integral part of the society. The Muslim groups do not realize how they got into their predicament and they do not know how to get out. They ultimately fail at governing. When that happens, some wonder why they failed!!!!

I believe that we need to define our mission as a Muslim ummah. What are we trying to achieve in life? It is not about attaining power and control, procuring advanced weapons, building high-rise buildings or controlling territories. There are higher values that need to be addressed. Muslims need to set in place objectives and strategies that bring Muslims closer to fulfill their mission. Muslims need to conduct self-evaluations and to measure their successes and failures against their set goals. Our early Muslim scholars were brilliant in setting the higher objectives of the Islamic Sharia. Such values are the essence of Islam. They are very basic and simple, and any reasonable person could agree with them, regardless of their ethnicity, race or even religion. The values are universal in nature. The simplicity of the message of Islam, its truthfulness and its openness, were behind Islam's quick and great success. The Muslim ummah is hungry for such universal values that unite all Muslims, despite our diversity, and uplifts us all, despite our desperation.

I'm not proposing that Muslims should not get involved in politics, gain authority and power, take part in just wars, and so forth. All that

(Continued on page 21)

### Letter to the Editor:

I enjoyed this past Ramadan and the dinners with my community. The dinners were a nice way to celebrate Ramadan and to create nice memories. The problem that I had with these dinners is that they were more like fundraising dinners or what I want to call "go ahead and surprise me dinners" or "construction announcement dinners."

Unfortunately, the first time I hear about most community plans and projects is during the fundraising dinners. As a person who tries to be a good Muslim and a committed donor, I have to process, accept, and donate to all the causes that are presented to me for the first time during these dinners. If the fundraising Imam is unable to get my adrenaline going in such a short span of time, well, I do not feel invested in the project. I do not feel that dinners are the right time to announce projects. It is unrealistic to expect people to remain focused and to understand the presented cause while also trying to eat, feed one's children and so forth.

I also had a chance to pray Taraweeh in all of the Milwaukee Masajid, including the UWM Musalla. I have a good feel for how efficiently these buildings are being utilized. No doubt, Ramadan is the peak month for masajid use by our community. Personally, I like to count and I am actually always counting. I count the cars in the parking lots , the number of people praying on a given night, the number of attendees at functions and so on. Based on my observations, I feel that our buildings are under utilized. In fact, I feel that our utilization is less than 30% of what we could be doing. This is very expensive and draining of the community's resources.

We have about 15,000 Muslim in Milwaukee and the surrounding areas. From this population, we need to know how many are practicing Muslims and how many of these attend the Masajid. I would love

(Continued from page 20) Opinion: Why Do They Hate Us?

I am saying is that Muslims should not place the banner of "Islam" on every action that they take.

I hope the day will come when autocratic regimes stop using Islam as a front to achieve their political aspirations, wearing the Islamic mask to maintain their grip on power. I hope the day will come when Muslims learn to establish political platforms, forge political alliances, and accept political, ethnic and religious diversity. I hope the day will come when Muslims get elected to public office by Muslims and non-Muslims alike, not because they are Muslims, but because of their ability to improve the lives of others and better serve humanity. I remind Muslims of the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): "The most beloved in the eyes of Allah (SWT) are the ones that are most helpful to others."

Our scholars have the enormous responsibility of keeping Islam relevant in the lives of Muslims, developing realistic and reasonable answers to the pressing current issues facing Muslim families, presenting Islam in the best manner to Muslims and non-Muslims alike, allowing intellectual arguments and freedom of expression, and planting the seed of faith in the hearts and minds of Muslim youth. This is the only way our community will prosper and move forward.

to see these and other statistics presented in one of our fundraiser dinners. Based on this information, we can know how many masajid and libraries we need to serve our community and how big the free clinic should be to cover the uninsured (not the poor), especially after Obamacare is implemented. I am concerned that every good idea that we have is being turned into an expensive building!!!! When I attended the fundraiser for the Muslim free clinic, I didn't hear any of the physicians or business experts explain why we are expanding the clinic. I also agree that we need fitness facilities for women, but such places already exist. Curves centers are located throughout Milwaukee, are very economical and are for women only. For youth sports, there are recreation departments in each school district in the United States. Why do we need Muslim Youth Centers and a Muslim women's fitness center? What is next, a Muslim shopping mall? I am not saying that we should never have such facilities, but I have two main concerns. First, are our projects cost effective and second, are we better Muslims and better role models for others if we segregate ourselves from the rest of society?

The community has the right to know how these buildings are connected with each other. What is the MAS building for? Are we investing in buildings more than human development? I would like to see a scholarship program for our youth who would like to become Hufaz or Imams. We need such people who can actually understand and connect with our youth and make a difference in the community. Another idea that we can invest in is supporting an Arabic language teacher in one of the Milwaukee school districts.

Are we becoming an isolated community within a larger community? Why can't we do fundraising events for the Milwaukee police or fire department or at least an iftar? Can we adopt one of the Milwaukee school building improvement projects? There are many possibilities and we need to do things in the larger community, not just in our own community.

Najwa Shawish, MD

#### ISM Weekend School

(September 15th—May 18th, 2014)

Classes offered from 10am-1pm

Quran, Arabic and Islamic Studies courses are available for students in K4 through high school. For more information, contact ismweekendschool@ismonline.org or come to the Islamic Center on Sunday morning.

### Quran & Arabic Institute Program (QAI)

Every Thursday and Friday from 6-8pm and Saturday from 10-am -1pm

Courses in Quran and Arabic are open to students in K4– high school. If you have any questions, please call 414-502-8486 or email Liaquat Ali at qaimilwaukee@gmail.com

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# Remembering Last Ramadan:

Have you maintained the Ramadan Spirit?









Security done right!



A BIG THANK YOU to the sisters who made delicious sweets for our bake sale!









Adel, the youngest member of our security team



49 likes

\_fala7a How many Shura members does it take to figure out what fruit this is?! #MidnightAdventuresAtTheISM #PostTaraweehMeetings



Br.Rami Bleibel giving a lecture on the Seerah of Prophet Muhammad (S).

### Prayer Calendar - October 2013

Day	Date	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Thursday	1	4:10	5:42	12:59	4:57	8:14	9:48
Friday	2	4:13	5:44	12:58	4:56	8:11	9:44
Saturday	3	4:14	5:45	12:58	4:55	8:10	9:43
Sunday	4	4:16	5:46	12:58	4:55	8:09	9:41
Monday	5	4:17	5:47	12:58	4:54	8:08	9:39
Tuesday	6	4:19	5:48	12:58	4:54	8:06	9:37
Wednesday	7	4:20	5:49	12:58	4:53	8:05	9:36
Thursday	8	4:22	5:50	12:58	4:53	8:04	9:34
Friday	9	4:23	5:51	12:58	4:52	8:02	9:32
Saturday	10	4:25	5:52	12:58	4:51	8:01	9:30
Sunday	11	4:26	5:53	12:57	4:51	8:00	9:28
Monday	12	4:28	5:55	12:57	4:50	7:58	9:27
Tuesday	13	4:29	5:56	12:57	4:49	7:57	9:25
Wednesday	14	4:29	5:56	12:57	4:49	7:57	9:25
Thursday	15	4:31	5:57	12:57	4:49	7:55	9:23
Friday	16	4:34	5:59	12:56	4:47	7:52	9:19
Saturday	17	4:35	6:00	12:56	4:46	7:51	9:17
Sunday	18	4:37	6:01	12:56	4:46	7:49	9:15
Monday	19	4:38	6:02	12:56	4:45	7:48	9:13
Tuesday	20	4:40	6:03	12:56	4:44	7:46	9:11
Wednesday	21	4:41	6:04	12:55	4:43	7:44	9:10
Thursday	22	4:42	6:05	12:55	4:42	7:43	9:08
Friday	23	4:44	6:07	12:55	4:41	7:41	9:06
Saturday	24	4:45	6:08	12:54	4:41	7:40	9:04
Sunday	25	4:47	6:09	12:54	4:40	7:38	9:02
Monday	26	4:48	6:10	12:54	4:39	7:36	9:00
Tuesday	27	4:49	6:11	12:54	4:38	7:35	8:58
Wednesday	28	4:51	6:12	12:53	4:37	7:33	8:56
Thursday	29	4:51	6:12	12:53	4:37	7:33	8:56
Friday	30	4:52	6:13	12:53	4:36	7:31	8:54
Saturday	31	4:55	6:15	12:52	4:34	7:28	8:50

Day	Date	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Sunday	1	4:56	6:16	12:52	4:33	7:26	8:48
Monday	2	4:58	6:17	12:52	4:32	7:24	8:46
Tuesday	3	4:59	6:18	12:51	4:31	7:23	8:44
Wednesday	4	5:00	6:20	12:51	4:30	7:21	8:42
Thursday	5	5:02	6:21	12:51	4:29	7:19	8:40
Friday	6	5:03	6:22	12:50	4:28	7:17	8:38
Saturday	7	5:04	6:23	12:50	4:26	7:16	8:36
Sunday	8	5:06	6:24	12:50	4:25	7:14	8:34
Monday	9	5:07	6:25	12:49	4:24	7:12	8:32
Tuesday	10	5:08	6:26	12:49	4:23	7:10	8:30
Wednesday	11	5:09	6:27	12:49	4:22	7:08	8:28
Thursday	12	5:11	6:28	12:48	4:21	7:07	8:26
Friday	13	5:11	6:28	12:48	4:21	7:07	8:26
Saturday	14	5:12	6:29	12:48	4:20	7:05	8:24
Sunday	15	5:14	6:31	12:47	4:17	7:01	8:20
Monday	16	5:16	6:33	12:47	4:16	6:59	8:18
Tuesday	17	5:17	6:34	12:47	4:15	6:58	8:16
Wednesday	18	5:18	6:35	12:46	4:14	6:56	8:14
Thursday	19	5:19	6:36	12:46	4:12	6:54	8:12
Friday	20	5:20	6:37	12:45	4:11	6:52	8:10
Saturday	21	5:22	6:38	12:45	4:10	6:50	8:09
Sunday	22	5:23	6:39	12:45	4:09	6:49	8:07
Monday	23	5:24	6:40	12:44	4:07	6:47	8:05
Tuesday	24	5:25	6:41	12:44	4:06	6:45	8:03
Wednesday	25	5:26	6:42	12:44	4:05	6:43	8:01
Thursday	26	5:28	6:44	12:43	4:03	6:42	7:59
Friday	27	5:29	6:45	12:43	4:02	6:40	7:57
Saturday	28	5:29	6:45	12:43	4:02	6:40	7:57
Friday	29	5:31	6:47	12:42	4:00	6:36	7:54
Saturday	30	5:32	6:48	12:42	3:58	6:34	7:52

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