

December, 2008 - Thul-Hujja 1429

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

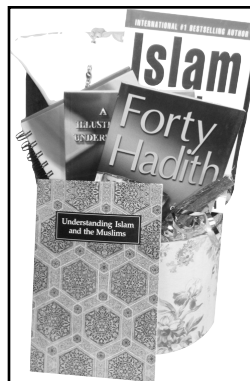
CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Assalamu alaikum brothers and sisters in Islam,

Al-Humdulillah things are progressing at the ICCR. In conjunction with the Education Committee and the Board, the Imam is developing new programs for the youth and adults. We will begin having community potluck dinners this winter and are in the planning stages for the upcoming Eid al-Adha. In cooperation with the Mother Mosque of America, we helped sponsor a fund raising dinner that was very successful. These events help us portray Islam in a positive light and give us an opportunity to make d'awah to our friends and neighbors.

Speaking of d'awah, there is no better opportunity than now to reach out to non-Muslims.

Islam is very much misunderstood. In these modern times of on demand communications such as email, the internet and text messaging, there is no excuse to get the compelling message of Islam out to all that can hear and see. This requires knowledge and being the best example to those around us. It requires you to be aware of current events. Islam is being attacked on many fronts, so don't stand by idly and think someone else will deal with it. Adopt the manners of the Prophet, may peace and blessings be upon him. Be patient, be kind, be generous and be a leader and again, know your deen (religion).



Chairman's Note 1
Community News 2/4

This newsletter is compiled by the Public Relations Committee (PRC) Mohamed Azkalany, Akif Shaikh, Sohail Hussaini, Timothy Hyatt, and Mohamed Soliman.

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America is about to turn a new page in history with the election of Barak Hussein Obama. Only in America could a half black, half white man from such a diverse background with a partially Islamic and Swahili name be elected freely by people of conscience. Think of it, Barak Obama was elected by a majority of Americans while running against a traditional ticket that represented to some degree, failed policies.



We are involved in armed conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and have a failing economy.

There is a dangerous amount of discontent among our people. Many Americans still go hun-

gry every day. There is a huge disparity among haves and have nots and now millions are losing their jobs and America's record of human rights has lost credibility. Hopefully, our new administration will work hard to rectify these issues. We pray that both political parties will join together in working for the common good of America by passing strong impactful economic legislation and improving our image in the world by transforming the United States into the leader of diplomacy and peace. Amin.

Jazakum Allahu khairan

In the name of Allah

27. "And proclaim the Pilgrimage among men: they will come to thee on foot and (mounted) on every kind of camel, lean on account of journeys through deep and distant mountain highways;

28. "That they may witness the benefits (provided) for them, and celebrate the name of Allah, through the Days appointed, over the cattle which He has provided for them (for sacrifice): then eat ye thereof and feed the distressed ones in want.

The Pilgrimage.22

Thanksgiving in Islam

In Islam, Thanksgiving is not only a particular religious act or service to be enacted a certain day of the year; it is the whole life of a Muslim. One's whole life should be lived in obedience to our Ultimate Benefactor, Allah. He has been good to us and so in our thankfulness, we should worship Him, love and obey His commands and orders. Our daily prayers, fasting during Ramadan, our zakah and performing Hajj are all acts of Thanksgiving. We should do them not only as duties that must be performed but as acts of gratitude to our Lord and Creator.

The Qur'anic word for thanks is shukr. It is mentioned in the Qur'an many times. It is a quality of human beings and it is also a quality of Allah. Shukr means the consideration of a favor and its acknowledgment. Shukr from the human being means recognition of the favor. Shukr from Allah means the reward and appreciation of it.

And remember when your Lord pro-

claimed, "If ye are grateful, I will add more (favours) unto you; but if ye show ingratitude, truly My torment is terrible indeed."

Shukr is one of the loftiest stations in Islam. It is a quality of the believers and it is a source of all goodness. Shukr is used in the Qur'an sometimes as an equivalent to faith. The faithful are thankful people and the unfaithful are ungrateful people. Allah has described His prophets and messengers among those who were thankful people. Prophet Noah was a grateful servant of Allah (Al-Israa' 17:3). Prophet Abraham used to thank Allah for His many blessings (Al-Nahl 16:121). Prophet David and his family were told to be grateful to Allah (Saba' 34:13). Allah ordered His Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), **"Nay, but worship Allah, and be of those who give thanks"**.

Humanity at large is as Allah pro-

claims, **"But few of my slaves are thankful"**. We should all be grateful and follow the example of Prophet Abraham when he supplicated, "O my Lord grant me the power and ability that I may be grateful for your favors which you have bestowed on me and **on my parents and that I may do righteous good deeds that will please you and admit me by your mercy among your righteous slaves"**.

First Ten Days of Dhul-Hijjah

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said, "There are no days during which the righteous action is more pleasing to Allah than the righteous action during the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah. A man asked, "Not even Jihad in the cause of Allah?" The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) replied, "Not even Jihad except that one goes forth with his life and property and does not return with either of it".

Fatwa by Imam

Q. When should the takbeer of eid start and end, before or after eid?

A. The Takbeer of Eid starts at Fajr on the day of Arafah and ends after Asr on the last day of the days of Tashreeq. This means the Takbeer continues till the 4th day of Eid after Asr. Muslims should make the Takbeer after the prayers individually or collectively and wherever they are, whether driving, shopping, or at work. This is mustahbbah.

Q. What is the benefit of the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah?

A. The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said that "There are certain days that Allah has designated to be extra special. They have great reward in them and whosoever utilizes them then he would be gain extra reward with perpetual blessings." The meaning of this is that such a person will not suffer for the rest of his life. And, of those extra special days of Allah

are the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah that culminate on the celebration of Eid. It is recommended to exert oneself in obedience and in doing good deeds during these days. One should try to recite more Quran and do extra dhikr, fast and pray voluntarily, perform Qiyam at night, attend prayers at the Msjid with Jama'ah especially Fajr, give more in charity, seek to perfect his morals and manners, and so on.

Q. What is the ruling on cutting the hair and nails during the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah for one who plans to make an udhiyah?

A. The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) commanded us that "whoever intends to make sacrifice for the sake of Allah should not cut his nails or remove any hair from his body." This is a sunnah, meaning recommended, not obligatory.

Q. What is the time for Udhiyah?

A. Udhiya can be done starting after the Eid prayer till the last day of Tashreeq i.e. till after Asr on the 4th day of Eid. It is from the sunnah that the Muslim should slaughter by himself and take his family with him to the place of slaughter to witness the act. The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) took Fatimah (ra) and told her to witness the sacrifice because Allah grants forgiveness for each drop of blood that gushes out from the sacrificed animal and that Allah forgives one before that blood even touches the ground. It is sunnah to eat the 3 or 4 days of Eid from the meat of one's sacrifice and to distribute the meat to his family and friends, Muslims or non-Muslims. It is important for a Muslim to take Allah's symbols seriously. "Whoever honors the symbols of Allah that will be better for him with Allah on the day of resurrection."

Imam's Office hours: Daily from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM and from Maghrib to Isha. The Imam will be on vacation, traveling to Egypt to visit his family, from mid January 2009 to mid February 2009.

Ta'lluq Ma'Allah - The Sacred Connection

Islam is our way of life. It is centered on keeping us (mentally) connected to Allah (swt), our Creator, our Sustainer, our Guardian and our Lord. The better our connection with Allah (swt) in this life, the better Muslims we are. The best way to connect to someone is to meet him in person, talk to him, and listen to him with attentiveness. Allah (swt) talks to us through the Quran, His Glorious Kalaam. When you read it with sincere attention and devotion, you will notice Allah (swt) talking to you at a personal level. The verses of the Quran will seem as if directly related to you, talking to you about your problems; yes - the worldly ones. They even identify the underlying causes of your problems and suggest solutions to you. The Quran becomes a source of immense comfort at times of grief. It is the best anti-depressant ever, such that it even claims that a Muslim (who understands it) never gets depressed. And, by Allah, many have found that to be true. Such is the connection that the Quran establish-

es when you read it with a pure heart. The goal of Islam is to keep this connection between the servant and his Lord alive each day throughout the life of the servant. Each day is full of the distractions of life - our necessities and desires - that attempt to weaken and sever our sacred connection with Allah (swt). This is where the system of prayer (Iqam as-Salaah) comes in. Each day at five different times you are snatched out of your daily distractions (i.e. business, family, rest, sleep, etc.) and thrust into the remembrance of Allah (swt). This is where you stand before your Lord and talk to Him and He listens attentively - so long as you remain attentive in your prayer. You praise His Majesty, thank Him for His countless favors, seek guidance, forgiveness and help from Him, and supplicate to Him your deepest desires. This connects you anew, reorients you to His direction.

To be continued ...

Eid Ul Adha Dates and Plans

Eid Ul-Adha prayers will begin promptly at 9 am with breakfast items provided by the ICCR immediately following prayers. Please be considerate of others in your serving portions. The Playstation is reserved from 1-4 PM at \$2.99 per child. Planet X is reserved from 1-3 at \$12 per person, unlimited play.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK on Monday, December 8th (Eid night) at 5:30 pm.

Please bring enough food to share for two families. Be generous in your portion.

ICCR Committee Reports

Fund Raising

Approximately \$39,000 was raised during Ramadan with nearly half of it so far collected.

Education

Sunday School is off to a wonderful start. There is still time to register your child any Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. Thank you to our volunteer teachers for their contribution to our children.

Membership

A survey for our community members will be revised and distributed shortly. We would like to hear your opinions about the activities

Maintenance & Building

The exterior painting has been completed and the inside painting has begun.

The parking lot will be resurfaced and painted in the spring.

Public Relations

We have long been in need of someone to volunteer their IT expertise, time and effort to update the ICCR website. Please see any Board member if you are able to offer your help.

Social Services

The committee still desperately requests help to support the preparation and selling of lunches after Friday Khutbas. At this time, the lunches will continue to only be bi-weekly until there are more regular and reliable volunteers. Remember, this not only provides great food for everyone, but the money raised goes toward the ICCR general fund.

Youth Program: The Imam conducts lectures from 6:00PM - 7:00PM on Fridays for teens 13 +. On Sunday the Imam provides a lecture for boys and girls as part of the Sunday School program.

Family Lecture: The Imam provides a lecture for Muslim families (men, women, and children) covering aspects of Muslim social life every Saturday after Isha (7:00PM).



**Daily Prayer
Timings for
Nov. Dec.**

2008



Fajr:	05:45 AM
Zuhr:	12:30 PM
Asr:	02:45 PM
Maghrib:	5 minutes after Azaan
Isha:	07:00 PM
Jumuah:	12:15 PM

If you would like to advertise your local business in the ICCR newsletter, please submit your business info (company name, type of service, address and phone/fax/web-site/email) which we can insert in a business card size.

Contact Brother Tim with your info and/or questions.

At this time, we are considering a \$200 a year price for advertising.



Membership Corner

Are you a member of the Islamic Center? It does not take much. \$25 a month for a family or half of that for a single individual. You will get a discount in many ICCR activities and educational programs for your children. But more importantly, you will pay your dues to maintain and sustain this House of Allah. If we do not do it, *who will?*

Fill the membership form online (www.crmosque.com) or contact Brothers Ovais Ahmed or Ayman Amer after Friday prayers. Do not forget, it is your responsibility.