

# PARADISE

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## EDITORIAL

*Asalamu Alaikum;*

It was a blessed night by all meanings. It was the first night of the last ten days of this blessed month or Ramadan. It was the night when the faithfuls of our community gathered and showed their support and willingness to carry on **OUR** expansion project, *The Education and Youth Center*.

That night, the words were translated to actions and the emotions were transformed into pledges of support.

Although many sincere brothers and sisters didn't show up due to the weather problems, those who were there, with their families, were determined to make it a successful event for all to remember. *Alahmdu lillah*.

All praise be to Allah (SWT) for His Help and Support; and many thanks to those who inked down their pledges defying all the whisperings of the Shaitan. Also, we extend our thanks to the brothers and sisters who **volunteered** and spent a lot of time and effort and made sure that we had a wonderful evening.

For those brothers and sisters who didn't have a chance to be there we say: ***Don't miss this chance of doing good, it is after all for your own benefit when nothing will benefit you except your good deeds. Join your brothers and sisters and be part of this wonderful community of ours.***

Abu Omar

## IS YOUR HEART DEAD?!

***"You will indeed find them, of all people, most greedy of life, even more than those who do not believe in Resurrection. Each one of them wishes he could be given a life of a thousand years. But the grant of such life will not save him even a little from due punishment. For Allah sees well all that they do" (Al Baqarah, 2:96)***

While thousands of Muslims are killed all over the world, and while tens of thousands are imprisoned, tortured or forced out of their homelands for just saying "*Our Lord is Allah*", most Muslims remain remarkably silent and have no worry except for the material things of life. Their hearts have been filled with the love of this *Dunya* (life) that didn't leave any space for any worry about fulfilling their duties and obligations of enjoining good and forbidding evil or defending the lives of weak Muslims. Many Muslims today have become so much attached to their life that their desire is to dwell among their family, house, money and commerce. They have forgotten that matters of the Hereafter should come before matters of this life and that we must strive to follow the orders of Allah, not just those we find easy and convenient to follow. *Here is what Ibn al-Qayyim had to say about such people:*

"The one who does not perform his obligations is actually worse than the one who performs sins. Anyone having some knowledge about the revelation of Allah, the guidance of the Prophet (SAW), and the life of the companions would conclude that those who are pointed at today as the most pious people are in fact the least pious. Indeed, what kind of piety is there in a person who witnesses Allah's sanctities being violated, his religion abandoned, the Sunnah of His Messenger shunned, and yet remains still with a cold heart and a shut mouth? Such a person is like a dumb Shaitan! In the same way the one who talks falsehood is a speaking Shaitan. Isn't the misfortune of Islam due only to those who whenever their life and food are secure, would not care about what happens to the religion? The best among them would offer a sorry face. But if they were challenged in one of the things their heart is attached to like their money, they would spare no efforts to get it back. These people, besides deserving the anger of Allah, are afflicted with the greatest calamity without even knowing it: They have a dead heart. Indeed the more alive a person's heart is, the stronger its anger for the sake of Allah and the more complete his support to Islam and Muslims." (*A'alaam al-Muwaqqi'een, volume 2, page 176*).

# Thank YOU

**For a successful Fundraising Din-**

**May Allah bless you all and reward you the best.**

**If you didn't have a chance to participate, we still need your generous support.**

## Eid Ul-Fitr

will be insha'a Allah either on Tuesday or **Wednesday.**

please check our web site  
([www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org](http://www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org))  
or call HIC (721-1712) after 8:30  
p.m. on Monday 12/25/00.

**Eid Prayer will be held at HIC  
at 8:30 a.m.**

## Dawah Corner

### **O** *Dawah with wis-*

One of the most important duties of all Muslims is conveying the message of Islam and invite others to the Way of Allah "making dawah". However this invitation should be done in the best way and manners and with all wisdom.

*"Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for thy Lord knoweth best, who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance." Quran 16:125*

In this article I wanted to share with you some of the tips in making dawah which may help in doing this duty in the best way and avoiding mistakes that may be costly.

1) The best way of making dawah is being a good example in your character and behavior. People can see this without you having to talk to them. If someone saw you as an honest person, there is no need to preach him about honesty in Islam because he has seen it. Being kind and helpful for others whenever they are in need of help is a good way to attract them and to gain their confidence in your person and believe. Being a good example should be at all times not only when doing dawah. Many stories took place at the time of the prophet (pbuh) where nonbelievers declared shahada as an instant result of the kindness and/or humbleness of the prophet (pbuh). On the other hand, it is so confusing and very hard to convince someone with something you don't practice. If your coworker or classmate knows that you are Muslim, yet you are so far from practicing Islam in your character and/or actions. He/she will think many times before believing you when telling him about the Islamic character and manners!. If the Muslim sister is not observing the Islamic dress, how she will convince a non Muslim girl that she need to wear it if she become a Muslim!.

2) Never insult the person or his/her belief, put it down or try to prove it wrong. This may cause a reverse reaction from this person that will make him seek more knowledge about that belief just to prove that you are wrong not his belief. Instead of talking about his faults concentrate and talk about attractive issues in Islam that you think might impress him/her. This may be the beginning of getting him interested to know more about Islam and asking more questions about it. It is a good idea to talk about something which have a common ground in the two beliefs like being honest and kind with others, respecting the old and being merciful with the weak, being just with others, etc. This will clear any bad image he/she has in mind as a result of stereotype media about Islam and Muslims.

3) Saying I don't know is much better than giving a false answer. No matter how much you know about Islam, you may be faced with a question that you don't know the right answer to it. Never feel shy of admitting that you don't know the answer, but at the same time promise that person to seek the right answer to that question. Remember that giving a false answer may mislead this person and/or let him feel that you lied to him if he will later know that what you told him is wrong. This may cost you his confidence.

*May Allah (SWT) help us be the best example for others, Amen*

*Br. Jamil Naser*



### **Qur'an Memorization Contests**

for both children and adults

will be held at HIC  
on Sunday 12/24/2000  
starting at 10:30

## **OBSERVING FAST FOR SIX DAYS IN THE MONTH OF SHAWWAL AFTER RAMADAN**

Abu Ayyub Al-Ansari (*Allah be pleased with him*) reported Allah's Messenger (*may peace be upon him*) as saying: **"He who observed the fast of Ramadan and then followed it with six (fasts) of Shawwal. it would be as if he fasted perpetually."** *Sahih Muslim*

### **Prayer Times at the Masjid**

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>6:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Duhur:</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>2:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>Sunset</b>
<b>Isha and Tarawih:</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Jumu'a (Friday):</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>



# Muslimah...

HIC Sisters' Page  
 Editor: Sr. Zakiyyah Shakoore

## The Merits of Ramadan

The Prophet (saw) has mentioned the merits of Ramadan in a large number of ahadith. In a hadith narrated by 'Ubadah ibn al Samit, (ra) the Prophet (saw) is reported to have said: Ramadan has come to you. It is the month of blessing in which Allah envelops you with His kindness. He makes His mercy descend upon you. He forgives your sins, accepts your prayers, and witnesses you when you race one another in virtuous deeds in this month. Therefore, show Allah the best of deeds from your side, because unfortunate is that person who deprives himself from Allah's mercy in this month. The month of Ramadan is the season of divine blessings. It is the month of purification. It is meant for annual renovation of the inner spiritual qualities. It is a golden opportunity for every Muslim to strengthen his 'Iman, to purify his heart and soul and to remove the evil effects of the sins committed by him. This month invites a Muslim to minimize his other mundane involvements and maximize the acts of worship. One should plan his schedule for this month, so as to spare maximum time for 'ibadah. Here is a brief list of the acts which should be carried out in Ramadan with due care: **1)** To pray every prayer in Jama'ah in the Masjid; **2)** To rise up a little earlier than the exact time of suhoor and to offer the salah of Tahajjud. There is no prescribed number of the Tahajjud prayer. Yet, it is better to pray 8 Rak'at; **3)** To offer the Nafl prayers of Al-Ishraq (2 rak'at after sunrise), Duha (4 rak'at which may be performed at anytime after Ishraq before noon) and Al-Awwabin (6 rak'at after Maghrib); **4)** The recitation of the Holy Qur'an. No specific limit is prescribed. But one should recite as much of it as he can; **5)** Dhikr or Tasbeeh; **6)** Prayers and supplications: No particular prayer is prescribed. One can pray for everything he needs both in this world and in the hereafter. However, the supplications of the Prophet (saw) are so comprehensive that they encompass all that a Muslim can need in his life and after his death. It is, therefore, much advisable to pray Allah Almighty in the prophetic words used by the Prophet (saw); **7)** Sadaqah (charity): A part from paying zakah, which is obligatory, one should also pay optional sadaqah in Ramadan according to his best ability. It is reported in authentic Ahadith that the Holy Prophet (saw) used to pay special attention in Ramadan to look after the poor and to help them financially. All sinful acts should be avoided completely during the month of Ramadan. Although the sinful acts are totally prohibited in Shariah, (islamic law) whether in Ramadan or at any other time, their prohibition becomes more severe in this month. It is evident that every Muslim avoids certain lawful acts, like eating and drinking, during the fasts. If he continues to commit sins in Ramadan, it will be a mockery to avoid lawful things and yet be engaged in unlawful acts never allowed in Shari'ah.

Thus, the abstinence from sins becomes all the more necessary in this month. Especially the following acts should be avoided totally: **1)** Telling a lie; **2)** Gheebah or backbiting i.e. ill speaking of a person in his absence; **3)** Quarrelling. The Prophet (saw) has particularly forbidden it when one is in the state of fasting. He has directed us that, if someone wants to quarrel in Ramadan, we should tell him that we are fasting, hence we are not prepared to indulge in any quarrel. **4)** Eating unlawful things; **5)** Earning through unlawful means; **6)** Any act which may harm a person without a valid cause; **7)** Burdening one's servants or employees with a toilsome job beyond their ability, without providing them facilities to carry it out. In short, one should try his best to refrain from all kinds of sins, and protect his eyes, ears, tongue and all other organs from indulging in unlawful activity. Once a Muslim spends the month of Ramadan in this way, he will Insha Allah, find himself equipped with a spiritual strength which will facilitate for him to conduct a good Islamic life in accordance with the pleasure of Allah. *(The above article is an abridgement of some aspects of the long exposition on the Holy month of Ramadan by Maulana Justice Muhammad Taqi Usmani)*

## Combining Siyam with Sadaqa

While Ramadan is a means of gaining the provisions to meet Allah, another major provision is sadaqa (charity). Combining siyam (fasting) with sadaqa is one of the surefire ways of facilitating one's entrance to Paradise. The early scholars of Islam would say, "Salat takes its doer to half of the way, Siyam will carry him to reach the door of the King (Allah), and the Sadaqa will take him by his generous hand to lead him to meet the King." Narrated Abu Huraira: The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "Who has observed fast among you today?" Abu Bakr replied, "It is I." The Prophet said, who among you followed the Janazah (funeral) today?" Abu Bakr replied, "It is I". He again asked "Who among you fed a poor man today? Abu Bakr said, "It is I." He again said, "Who among you visited a sick person today?" Abu Bakr said, "It is I." Upon this the Prophet (saw) said, "Anyone in whom (these good deeds) are combined will certainly enter Paradise," (Sahih Muslim, #2242). As far as sadaqa is concerned, Anas narrated that the Prophet (saw) said, "**The best charity is that which is given in Ramadan,**" (Tirmidhi). The Prophet was the most generous amongst the people, and he used to be more so in the month of Ramadan when Angel Jibril used to meet him each night until the end of the month. The Prophet used to recite the Holy Qur'an to Jibril, and when Jibril met him, he used to be more generous than a fast wind (which causes rain and welfare). *(Sahih Bukhari, Vol 3, #126)*



## Special Thanks from the MSA

The Muslim Students Association extends its appreciation and thanks to all our families and brothers and sisters who provided our Muslim students in the Huntsville area with daily Iftars and Dinners during this holy month. We pray to Allah (swt) to reward you and bless you and your families.

## Eid Mubarak

### Eid Dinner

Come and Join the Fun  
January 13, 2001

- c The dinner will be served at HIC starting at 6:00 p.m.
- c Family and individual tickets will be available at the center.

New Design

Come and Visit us at:



**www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org**

- *Subscribe to our group e-mail list.*
- *Get the latest news and activities.*
- *Send us your suggestions and*

### Selected Islamic Web Sites

- <http://www.it-is-truth.org>  
Excellent site for scientific facts from the Qur'an listed by subject. (English)
- <http://www.alwaraq.com>  
Very nice site of over a Million pages of books with subjects related to the Qur'an, Hadith, and other interesting Arabic literature books.

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