

PARADISE November 2001

A Monthly Publication of Huntsville Islamic Center

RAMADAN THE BELOVED VISITOR

Once again, the month of *Ramadan* is knocking at our doors and the traces of Allah's great Blessings and Mercy are getting closer and closer. The doors of the *Jannah* (Paradise) are being prepared to be widely open and the doors of *Jahannam* (Hell) are being prepared to be tightly closed. The devils are running away and the angels of mercy are gathering in the houses of Allah to witness those who are worshipping Him (SWT) and asking for His forgiveness, and those who are reciting the Qur'an and learning its meanings, and those who are praying the *Qiam* (night prayer) and cleaning their hearts for a new start.

It is the month of *Sawm* (fasting) and its reward is a very special one from Allah (SWT).

It is the month of the Qur'an and *Lailat-ul-Qadr* which is better than a thousand months.

It is the month of blessings and mercy. Its beginning is mercy, its middle is forgiveness, and its ending is salvation from *Jahannam*. The one who misses this great opportunity of forgiveness is really the deprived one.

It is the month of charity. The Prophet (PBUH) used to give more during this month. Whether it is a few dollars you spend to feed and aid hungry and needy Muslims, or money that you give for finishing a masjid or an Islamic school or project that would benefit a Muslim community, or a meal you provide to a fasting Muslim; *Sadaqah* (charity) will be for you as a shield from the blaze of Hell.

It is the month of repentance. Here is another chance given to us to start a new and clean era of our life by sincerely regretting our misdeeds and mistakes and turning to Allah for His Forgiveness and Mercy. Let's also forgive each other's mistakes and put aside any ill feeling towards one another.

We ask Allah (SWT) to give us the health and strength to do all what pleases Him so we may get His Forgiveness and Mercy.

Ramadan Mubarak

Ramadan will start, insha'a Allah, either on Friday 11/16 or Saturday 11/17
Please check our web site (www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org) for announcement on
Thursday night. Or call HIC (721-1712) after 8:30 p.m.

Isha and Taraweeh Prayer will be held at 7:00 p.m.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS DURING RAMADAN

Friday Community Potluck Iftar (Fast-breaking):

Bring your food and share with others. Everyone is invited.

Short Reminder:

Every Night during *Taraweeh's* break.

Friday Night and Saturday Night:

45-minute lecture and discussion after *Iftar*.

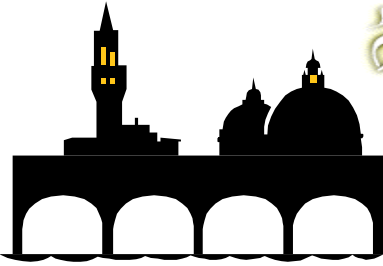
Sunday School and Study Circle: 10:30-1:00

Sunday School for children. Study Circle for both brothers and sisters.

Prayer Times at the Masjid

Fajr:	5:30 a.m.
Duhur:	12:15 p.m.
Asr:	2:45 p.m.
Maghrib:	Sunset
Isha and Tarweeh:	7:00 p.m.
Jumu'a (<i>Friday</i>):	12:30 p.m.





اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ

Funny how long a couple of hours spent at the **mosque** seem, but how short they are when watching a **movie**.



"Supplication is the pith of worship" Reported by Tirmidhi, Narrated Anas ibn Malik

"And remember your Lord by your tongue and within yourself, humbly and with fear without loudness in words in the mornings, and in the afternoons and be not of those who are neglectful. Surely, those who are with your Lord (angels) are never too proud to perform acts of worship to Him, but they glorify His Praise and prostrate before Him." *The Noble Qur'an: Surat Al-A'raf 7:205-206*

The Prophet (Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"No one offers a supplication without Allah bringing him what he asks or keeping away from him a like amount of evil, provided he does not ask for something sinful or for breaking ties of relationship." Reported by Tirmidhi, Narrated Jabir ibn Abdullah

He also said: **"If anyone finds pleasure in receiving an answer from Allah in times of difficulty, he should make many supplications when times are easy."** Reported by Tirmidhi, Narrated AbuHurayrah

Islamic Weekend School (Sunday School)

Encourages all parents to register their children to participate in the Qur'an memorization Contest during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Please contact the school for details and application forms.

Supplication when breaking the fast:

Ibn Majah related from 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'Aas that the Prophet (PBUH) said: **"A fasting person, upon breaking his fast, has a supplication that will not be rejected."** When 'Abdullah broke his fast he would say: **"O Allah, I ask of You, by Your mercy that encompasses everything, to forgive me."**

It is confirmed that the Prophet would say: ***The thirst has gone, the glands are wet and, Allah willing, the reward is confirmed.*** In another form, it is reported that he (PBUH) would say: **"O Allah, for You I have fasted and with Your provisions do I break my fast."**

Al-Tirmithi recorded, with a good chain, that the Prophet (PBUH) said: **"Three people will not have their supplications rejected: a fasting person until he breaks his fast, a just ruler, and an oppressed person."**

Islamic Academy of Huntsville


Is asking for your generous help and support

Please help us continue our Islamic Education to our young Muslim generation.

May Allah bless you and your families. *Please send your donations to HIC, attention IAH.*

Muslimah

HIC Sisters' Page
 Editor: Sr. Zakiyyah Shakoor



Spiritual Growth & Development in Ramadan

Ill praise is due to Allah, for this great month of fasting. Numerous opportunities exist this month for the attainment of knowledge, spiritual growth, and development. Although great emphasis is placed on the physical aspects of the fast during Ramadan, the greater goal centers on the avoidance of all the things forbidden by Allah, and the spiritual striving and total commitment of the Muslim's mind, body, and soul to the spirit of fasting. Therefore, the fasting person must work hard to restrain oneself from any act that may take them away from Allah's remembrance, or cause them to lose the benefits of the fast. Fasting purifies one's soul, and instills in the fasting person a sense of God-Consciousness. Allah says in the Qur'an, "*O ye who believe fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, perchance you may attain God-Consciousness*". As the month of Ramadan begins, the following tips may help increase your spiritual benefits during this great month.

Read/Recite the Qur'an as much as possible during the month. Allow time for serious study, reflection, and contemplation. Don't merely rush through your reading to complete it. Try to grasp the message and apply it to your daily life. The Qur'an is a unique book, and in it lies a valuable treasure for its seekers. Be generous in your study of the Qur'an. Ibn Abbas once reported to have said: "The Prophet was the most generous of people, but he would be his most generous during Ramadan when he would meet with Angel Jibril. He would meet with him every night and recite the Qur'an".

Always start and end your day with Salah. Obedience to Allah through prayer is of utmost importance. Being mindful of salah will reap tremendous benefit not only during this month, but also at other times of the year. Supplicate much and often throughout the day seeking Allah's forgiveness, guidance, and protection. Take advantage of opportunities for thikr and other acts of Ibadah (worship).

Maintain a good attitude. Remember discipline over self is the highest objective. Don't allow fasting to be a cause for poor behavior or a means for you breaking your fast. Avoid the things that contradict the spirit of Ramadan. Each and every limb of your body must submit to the will of Allah (swt) during this sacred month. If you find yourself on edge, instead of lashing out at others, escape to a quiet place and call on Allah to relieve your distress. Regarding bad behavior while fasting, the Messenger of Allah (saw) was reported to have said, "*Many an observer of fasting will not receive from his fasting any reward but the pain of hunger, and many a night worshipper will not receive any reward from his prayer but the loss of sleep*".

Assess the knowledge you have acquired about Islam and develop a plan for improvement. In addition to reading the Qur'an, investigate other sources of knowledge to learn more about your religion. Use this month as an opportunity to improve upon a weakness you may have. Find a small book, magazine, or ayat to study and keep it with you throughout the day. You will be surprised at the little pockets of time you have throughout the day for growth.

Develop sensitivity for the needs of the less fortunate and offer your assistance. Sometimes someone as close as a neighbor, an elderly family member, or a fellow Muslim can benefit from your help. Seek them out and try to do what you can to assist them. Feed the **truly** needy during this month for optimum reward. Do an act of charity each and every day. Be mindful of the food you consume as you break your fast. Take care not to over-indulge. Overeating may cause you to forget those really in need, or make you too tired to stand for prayer at night, wherein you lose numerous opportunities for blessings. Do not be wasteful with your food. There are people all over the world literally starving to death that would gladly take the scraps of food you toss aside. Give praise to Allah that at least you have your daily bread. Strive to help one of Allah's needy creatures.

allot special time for family involvement and establish family rituals for meals, prayers, Qur'anic reading, and study. Wake your family during the night and spend time in devotion. Plan an activity that involves giving. Frequent the mosque with you family to stress the importance of Iftar, Tarawih Prayer, and Lailatul Qadr. Join in a cleaning effort at the mosque to emphasize the obligation of maintaining Allah's house. Help make Ramadan an enjoyable and memorable experience for you and your family.

Ignore any inclination you may have to waste your time viewing TV, listening to the radio, playing video games or other forms of entertainment. Avoid idle talk; instead, use the time for religious study & worship. Soon after Ramadan ends, the TV, radio, and friends will reappear, & the mundane tasks of daily life will return. Gone, however will be this great opportunity for reward, so strive in earnestness to cultivate your inner self and reap the bountiful rewards promised by Allah (swt).

Ramadaan is the Month of Sadaqah and Charity...
It is the Month of giving for the sake of Allah...

During this Holy Month of Ramadan:

Support **HUNTSVILLE ISLAMIC CENTER S EXPANSION PROJECT**

With Allah's Help...

and Your Generous Support...

It will be done...

Phase I Constructions is scheduled to start very soon, so DO NOT miss your opportunity during these Holy and Blessed days to be among those who build and support Allah's Mosques.

Please send your donations to **HIC** or contact brother *Rashid Abbas* for pledges.

Ramadan Mubarak

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF HUNTSVILLE ISLAMIC CENTER

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