

Islamic Center Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 1
January 15, 2004
Zul Qada 23, 1424

ICNEF, St. John's Bluff Road S., Jacksonville, Florida 32246

CALENDAR

MONTHLY GATHERING

Saturday, January 31, 2004
5:30 pm

HOST FAMILIES

Dr. Asadullah & Razia Mojadidi
Ashraf & Fawzia Shaikh
Khair & Tahira Arsalla

FEBRUARY 2004

HOST FAMILIES

Zafar Awan & Farkhanda Khan
Dr. Mohammad & Amtul Ilyas

ICNEF BOARD MEETING

Sunday, February 1, 2004
After Zuhr Prayer

Articles News Announcements

FOR NEWSLETTER

Please submit by
Friday, February 6, 2004

ICNEF WEBSITE

<http://www.ICNEF.org>

HAJJ AND EID

www.ummah.net/hajj/hajj_as.html

It's that time of the year, Muslims all over the world are getting restless. Their Home in the heart of the planet beckons them. It's time to pay homage to the Beloved God in the House. It's time to come Home. It's time to come Home to the Holy Sanctuary of the Ka'aba. It's time to leave all and follow Him. It's time to abandon this illusory world and come to the House of God. It's time for Hajj—the Pilgrimage. Those who can go will head to Mecca, those who can't will join in the festivities of Homecoming wherever they may be celebrating the Eid of Sacrifice.

Hajj is a commemoration of love and celebration of faith. We commemorate Abraham's Supreme Sacrifice in love of his Beloved in Mina. We celebrate his wife Hagar's display of unprecedented love for the infant Ishmael and her unflinching trust in the Providence in the lonely desert around the Twin Peaks. We venerate God's Greatest Gift, the Qur'an by spending a day in Arafat where the final revelation was sent. We celebrate faith by coming face-to-face to the Qiblah of our prayers.

Hajj is also an act of renunciation. Muslims from every corner of the globe don their coffins—two cotton sheets—to represent their deaths to this life and head to their Primordial Home. They pay their debts, ask forgiveness of everyone, bid farewell to one and all and prepare to die to this world to live with Him. We are now ready for Hajj to the Ka'aba—a very special place.

The Ka'aba is a special place. It was the first house of worship built by the first man. God commanded Adam to make a journey. He walked umpteen months until he arrived guided by God to Mecca. Here, he was instructed to build Him a House. This was mankind's first House of Worship. This is where we first learned to mourn our separation from our Beloved. This is where Adam shed countless tears to lament loss of paradisiacal glory. This is where we sought to seek His nearness. This is where we sought to experience His intimacy. This House is the Archetype which basks under another House situated far beyond the realm of Visible Universe and the prison of space and serial time. This is the first act of reconciliation with our Paradisiacal Destiny in the Home of our Beloved in spite of our terrestrial sojourn.

The Ka'aba was once lost to us but our Beloved led His Friend Abraham (God's Peace be upon him) to this Sanctuary and gave him the task of restoring this House. Our father Abraham (GPBUH) recruited his son, Ishmael, for the Holy Task. For months at end, father and son toiled under the searing desert sun sustained only by their burning love for the Eternal God. This choice was no random choice. Every year, when men and women were to come to this blessed House, they were to come on the 10th of the month of Zil Hajj. On this auspicious day God asked Abraham to make the Supreme Sacrifice and Abraham delivered. Allah asked His Friend to sacrifice his son, Ishmael, and he obliged.

Continued on page 5

SISTER AMINAH ASSILMI VISITS JACKSONVILLE

Homa Mojadidi

Sister Aminah Assilmi, a former radical feminist and Southern Baptist from Oklahoma, studied the Qur'an, Sahih Muslim and fifteen other books on Islam in an attempt to convert the Arabs in her college class to Christianity and "save those poor ignorant heathens from the fires of hell." But instead, she accepted Islam and is now an ambassador of Islam.

Sr. Aminah Assilmi is the Director of the International Union of Muslim Women and travels both nationally and internationally, lecturing at college campuses, Islamic centers and other forums to increase public understanding of Islam. Her organization ran a successful campaign known as the 'Eid Stamp Project' to convince the United States Postal Service to offer an Eid Stamp. After many years of effort, on September 1, 2001, the first Muslim Eid Holiday Stamp was unveiled in the United States of America.

After recovering from cancer in which she was diagnosed with only a year to live, Sr. Aminah decided to devote one year to the Muslim community of America. She is now traveling around the United States by car in order to reach as many places as possible. "I spent many hours in prayer seeking guidance and finally came up with the idea of giving one year to the Muslims in America. So, I will spend one year driving across the United States to share Allah's Love and Mercy with as many communities as possible. Traveling by car will allow me to stop and visit communities that cannot afford to bring speakers and keep expenses down," says Sr. Aminah.

Sr. Aminah spoke to the Jacksonville community on Friday, Dec. 5th, at the Islamic Center of Northeast Florida. She lovingly embraced all the women when she entered the room and said, "in Islam, you're supposed to greet everyone when you enter a room and you're supposed to greet everyone with a smile on your face and the greeting of peace, "peace be onto you." She said that she is on a driving tour of the US to show people that all Muslims are not scary and to introduce people to who Allah (SWT) really is. She sat in front of the table that was set up for her instead of behind it because she said the Holy Prophet (PBUH) did not have a barrier between him and the people he spoke to and that "there is nothing that separates us from each other, physically or spiritually."

Sr. Aminah said "Islam's like a rock that does not look interesting when you look at it and if it's in your way you push it aside but the deeper you look into it the more beauty, magnificence, elegance, and wonder you're going to discover within it, but only if you are going to look [within it]." She used these rare and beautiful rocks as part of her talk, which she passed around to everyone, telling us how she introduces people to Allah through these rocks. Sr. Aminah continued her talk by saying that we see things in the Qur'an but we don't stop and think about them but if "something's in the Qur'an, then it's true, it's real, and it's good."

She said when she came across the verse in the Qur'an, which says that even a stone obeys Allah, she wondered, "how does a stone obey Allah?" But when she looked into the many varieties of stones and how different elements come together to form these unique stones with their unique physical characteristics, she understood that "when Allah forms something, it obeys." How much more are we, whom God created as His vicegerents on earth, are "truly obeying Allah and living in the natural state (*fitra*) in which He created us?" asked Sr. Aminah.

Regarding her *dawah* work and the people who have converted as a result of coming into contact with her, she said, "All we have to do is let them see Islam and introduce them to Allah...I did not even try to convert them." She also gave this advice regarding telling non-Muslims about Islam, "remember to go gently and a little bit at a time and leave them with questions to ask, so they'll come back and ask you something else—if you make them think, they'll make a point of coming back to you."

She used a sandstone pebble with a hole through its center "made by water one drop at a time consistently striking at the same place," as she described it, to show the importance of consistency in our good deeds and actions, and said how the Qur'an consistently reminds us to pray, to give in charity, and how "consistency helps us shape ourselves in the form that we want to be in." She used another stone, a fossil, to demonstrate how God is the Preserver, one of His many attributes through which we know Him. Sr. Aminah described this stone as a tiny painting of ferns "which fell into the mud and their shape got preserved into stone because God willed it so." Another of her stones, a beautiful lilac color, was three million years old, yet it had a drop of water within it, and within that drop a bubble of air, again beautifully demonstrating the quality of God, The Preserver. Sr. Aminah said "if you think these stones are beautiful, they are nothing compared to the beauty of Allah."

Continued on page 4

BOARD ELECTIONS 2004

A final list of nominees whose names are to appear on the 2004 ballots is as follows:

Brother James Abdur Rahman: Was born in Gary, Indiana. He has been a part of the Jacksonville Community for more than 5 years. He is employed as a Dispute Resolution Specialist for the State of Florida, is married and has 2 children. He has been an active member of our community and currently serves on the AFA School Board. He would like to bring his expertise in conflict resolution as well as his insight into the Jacksonville community at large to the ICNEF Board.

Brother Hilmi Al Shami: Was born in Amman, Jordan. He is recently married. He graduated with a degree in Aviation from California. He is self-employed and owns a distribution corporation for restaurants, supplying them with their needs. He has been a part of the Jacksonville community for 3 years now. He would like to work for all our Muslim community needs, focusing on the construction of the Masjid.

Brother Edis Bosnic: Was born in Bosnia. He is married and the couple is expecting their first child. He came to the US in 1995. He completed his high school and then two years of College (FCCJ). He is 23. He would like to represent the Bosnian community and serve the Ummah at large for the sake and pleasure of Allah.

Brother Khalid Kamal: Was born in Cairo, Egypt. He came to the US in 1992. He is married and has 4 children. He is a Physical Therapist. As a Board Member he would like to focus his energies on those areas where most needed, at all times seeking the pleasure of Allah.

Brother Amjad Khayat: Was born in Nablus, Palestine. He came to the US in 1979. He is married and has 5 children. He received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering and a Masters Degree in Engineering Management. He is a senior Structural Engineer and a Project Manager for a local consulting firm. He has been a member of the Islamic Center since 1995, and has previously served as a member of the ISCNEF Board. He would like to work for all of our Muslim community needs especially the youths'.

BECOMING AN ICNEF MEMBER

Are you a member of the Islamic Center? No! Well, it's easy. Just come to the Islamic Center and pick up an application form, which can be found by the donation box. There is an yearly membership fee. There are three (3) classes of membership: Student (may be single or married with either spouse a full time student), Single, and Family. All applications for membership are processed and approved by the Managing Committee at their monthly meetings. As a member you have the privilege and the responsibility to elect members to the Board of Directors every year. In fact, you would be eligible to run yourself. It's that simple.

YLJ HEARS FROM LOCAL MUSLIMS

Mobeen Rathore

On December 4, 2003, a group of Muslims participated in the Youth Leadership Jacksonville (YLJ) program on diversity. Fifty-five of the brightest and the best high school juniors from the first coast region participated in the program. Last year I participated alone. This year I had the privilege to be on a panel with a local Rabbi and Pastor to discuss religion and answer students' questions. Amir Bolden, Saman Qurashi and Dr. Nura Festic participated in small groups of 5 to 6 students to discuss Islam and Muslims. The event was very successful and the students asked many questions about Islam. All the participants were given the book "Complete Idiots Guide to Islam". The program evaluation clearly indicated a desire amongst the participants for more information about Islam. We have already been invited to participate in next year's program and have been allotted more time.

YLJ is a program for high school students from Duval, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns Counties, who have to be nominated in their sophomore year, must have the approval of their school principal and be academically sound. Fifty to 55 students are selected each year to participate in this yearlong one day a month program where the students receive leadership training. This is a very worthwhile program and I would encourage all high school seniors to consider participating in this program. This cannot only be a form of Dawah but can also help you on your college application and entrance. For more information visit the YLJ website <http://www.leadershipjax.org/youth.asp> or contact me.

CLASSIFIED

Baymeadows Primary Care, Inc.

No Appointment Necessary/Walk Ins Welcome
Board Certified

Talat Imam, MD
In Family Medicine

Hussain S. Imam, MD
In Internal Medicine

Quality Healthcare for Entire Family

M-F:8am-8pm Sat:9am-1pm

904-636-5400/ 9551 Baymeadows Road (Behind Applebee's)

ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER

\$20/Month or \$200/Year

Help Support the Islamic Center Newsletter
Donate to the Newsletter Fund

Continued from page 2

Sr. Aminah said she saw the flame of a candle in another stone and it brought to her mind another verse of the Qur'an, which says, "Allah is the Light of the Heavens and Earth. His Light is like a niche in which is a lamp - the lamp encased in a glass - the glass, as it were, a glistening star." [24 : 35] She said, "I remembered that Allah is my Light, my Guide, that He fills my heart and spirit with light, that He'll never leave me struggling by myself. All I need to do is walk in His Light."

"Everything that happens to us, no matter what it is, there is a blessing and a gift from Allah in it, but we dismiss it, and don't recognize it as such and become dismal and melancholy. If you're not going to look for the blessings, you're not going to find them. You have to look for blessings in order to find them," continued Sr. Aminah. "Allah is the Shaper of forms and He places beauty in everything but we rarely look for the beauty. We should look for the beauty and when we see an individual, we should seek that which makes them beautiful, not that which makes them undesirable," she said.

"Stay close to nature, surround yourself with it, because Allah created it and it reminds us of Allah. If you surround yourself with things made by man, you may come to revere the man too much," Sr. Aminah gently warned us. Mentioning another attribute of God, she said that Allah is the Judge, it's not our place to judge and "Allah knows the potential beauty and magnificence of everyone in this room but we don't—so we shouldn't judge." "You should be loving, kind, gentle, generous, always truthful, free from gossip and rancor, never finding fault with another human being but always turning away from the fault of another human being," was Sr. Aminah's wonderful advice to the Jacksonville Muslim community.

She said, "as Muslims we need to study the attributes of Allah and know Him through those attributes because then we'll discover how they apply to us and how we can benefit from these attributes, e.g., knowing that Allah is the Avenger, leaves my heart pure from hate." Sr. Aminah explained the attribute of Allah as the Resurrector by saying "all through our lives we go through experiences that cause us pain, hurt us, cause serious injuries and we lose our ability to love or trust but if we turn to Allah, He'll resurrect the ability to love and to trust [within us] if we but turn to Him."

Sr. Aminah said that we need to teach our children to know and love Allah through His attributes, rather than just instilling the fear of hell within them because love is much stronger than fear and what they should really fear is the loss of Allah's favor. "If you're afraid of someone, you'll fear them only as much as to avoid their wrath but if you love them, you'll do everything to please them because you love them. We need to know that God is forgiving and that He's waiting right until we take our last breath to forgive us."

She quoted the saying of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in which he speaks about the infinite mercy of God, "a day will come when hell will be like a barren cornfield due to the mercy of Allah."

She quoted Imam Siraj Wahhaj as saying, "you can't give something to someone you hate," and said that the only way you give something to someone is to love them. "I look at every human being as a future Muslim and I treat them as if they already are Muslim," she said.

On a personal note, I have met few scholars who embodied and exuded Allah's love, light, peace, and mercy in them, as Sr. Aminah did in her calm and smiling countenance, her words, her actions, and her whole demeanor. Listening to her wonderful words, I was both very ashamed and inspired: ashamed because of how often I have let minor disappointments in my life drive me to almost complete despair and hopelessness, and inspired by Sr. Aminah's courage, hope, fearlessness, determination, energy, positive outlook, and absolute love and compassion for everyone she comes into contact with, which undoubtedly stems from her infinite love for God and her belief in His infinite mercy. Meeting her and listening to her really made me wonder about the vast difference between simply professing to be a Muslim and actually being one.

IMAM'S DIARY

Imam Zaid Malik

Dec.1st: Lecture on Islam at the Family Life Center in Orange Park.

Dec. 3rd: Lecture on Islam at Flagler College in St. Augustine.

Dec. 4th: Had dinner with the participants of the TV program "Faith to Faith," at Rev. Ken Meyer's house. Taped a welcome message for the Jacksonville Airport TV on behalf of the Muslim community, which is being played along with a message from the mayor and others.

Dec.8th: Lecture on Islam at the Family Life Center in Orange Park.

Dec.9th: Lecture on Islam at Stanton College Preparatory High School in Downtown.

Dec. 10th: Lecture on Islam at the FCCJ Downtown Campus.

Dec. 16th: Speech on Tolerance at the Lutheran Church.

Dec.17th: Three Lectures on Islam at Wolfson High School. I was busy, and sent Brother Ali and Brother Ilyas for these lectures.

Dec.18th: Inter-faith meeting at Mayor's office with Pete Jackson, who is the Mayor's Chief Community Officer, and others.

Dec.24th: Invocation at Lawtey Correctional Institute. The Governor also participated.

Continued from page 1

The Ka'aba's foundations have been fortified by love and faith of Abraham's family. We go there to commemorate love. We go there to celebrate faith. Abraham (GPBUH) lived the true meaning of Surrender. He loved God, his Friend, above all. God gave him a dream where he saw himself sacrificing his son. Persistence of the dream convinced him that it was not just a dream but an allusion from the Infinite. He intimated the dream to his son who readily concurred. Once it was known to be God's Will, the son did not offer any excuses. It was a foregone conclusion that His Will be done. Father and son set off to the designated place. When they reached their destination, son suggested that the father cover his eyes so his love does not overwhelm him into disobeying His master. At that very moment that Abraham (GPBUH) let loose his knife, the son was substituted with a lamb. This time and this day was made sacred. Every year, millions come this very day. Millions retrace the steps of these two in the valley of Mina, they stop where they stopped, walk where they walked, and finally arrive where the Supreme Sacrifice was offered. Here, everyone offers a sacrifice in His Love and then gives it to the impoverished people of the land all the while marveling at Abraham's burning love and faith in God that he was willing to sacrifice his most precious love. Those cannot be here, celebrate this wonderful sacrifice wherever they may be in any part of the world. For indeed, love of God must be celebrated.

We commemorate Abraham (GPBUH) and his son's faith and surrender. We also celebrate Mother Hagar's love. A mother's love is the highest form of selfless human love. Hagar typified this love so well. She combined this love with her unshakable trust in God. Abraham (GPBUH) was instructed to bring her and her infant son Ishmael near the mound that was once the Ka'aba. In this desolate place with nary a single soul and nary a water source, he left them with a leather bade containing some dates, and a small water-skin containing some water, and set out homeward. Ishmael's mother followed him saying, "O Abraham! Where are you going, leaving us in this valley where there is no person whose company we may enjoy, nor is there anything (to enjoy)?" She repeated that to him many times, but he did not look back at her. Then she asked him, "Has Allah ordered you to do so?" He said, "Yes." She said, "The He will not neglect us." What an exemplary Trust in their Beloved God! They knew that the Causer of all Causes will provide. He is Eminently Resourceful. Ishmael's mother went on suckling Ishmael and drinking from the water (she had). When all the water ran out, she became thirsty and her child also became thirsty. She started looking at Ishmael tossing in agony; she left him, for she could not endure looking at him, and started looking at the valley keenly so that she might see somebody, but she could not see anybody. Then she descended from Safa and when she reached the valley, she tucked up her robe and ran in the valley like a person in distress and trouble, till she crossed the valley and reached Marwa mountain, where she stood and started looking, expecting to see somebody, but she could not see anybody. She repeated that (running between Safa and Marwa) seven times. God loved this selfless display of motherly love so much that

every pilgrim to His Holy House must run seven (7) times between the Twin Peaks of Safa and Marwa. When she reached Marwa (for the last time) she heard a voice and she asked herself to be quiet and listened attentively. She heard the voice again and said, "O, (whoever you may be)! You have made me hear your voice; have you got something to help me?" She saw an angel at the place of Zam-Zam, digging the earth with his heel till water flowed from that place. She started to make something like a basin around it, using her hand in this way, and started filling her water-skin with water. This wonderful gift of God has not stopped yet. Hundreds of Millions come every year and take gallons and gallons of the Holy Water with them and still the small well never goes dry. Mecca is a special place.

In celebration of the two momentous events in Abraham's (GPBUH) family, we are reminded that Allah's Will always works for our highest good. In the end, it all worked out for Abraham's (GPBUH) family and in the end if we trust Him everything will work out for us too. From Him have we come and to Him shall we return!

It is overwhelming to be in company of 3 million brothers and sisters in faith, all enshrouded in humble whites. The highest king to the humble laborer are both dressed alike. The stand shoulder to shoulder, they run side by side and they greet each other with the greeting of peace. People of all races intermingle as co-equals. Blacks, whites, yellows, and browns all come together in harmony before their Beloved. Men and women all stand together. Veils are lifted off women's faces. In this searing passion for the Loved One, there are no distractions. He Alone Matters! It is wonderful to lift one's face and see one's Qiblah face-to-face. All their lives, they turned their faces to Qiblah five times a day—now they see it right in front of them in all its majesty and glory. They savor the sweetness of coming Home all the while exclaiming:

***"Labbaik Allahuma labbaik,
La sharika laka labbaik,
Labbaik Allahuma labbaik."***

***"I have come, my Lord, I have come.
No one participates in Your Divinity.
I have come."***

We circulate around the Holy Ka'aba proclaiming all the while our Arrival. Circling around the earthly shadow of the Pole, we are reminded to keep our Beloved at the Center of our lives. We are reminded to keep Him in front of our lives and in the center of our existence. Whenever we pray, this circulation is affixed and imprinted in our consciousness. We stand in awe of His Presence as if we are circling non-stop in ecstasy round and round our Beloved.

Accept the Hajj of all our blessed Muslim brothers and sisters who are given the grace of your Presence in Your Exalted House. Give us the Grace to one day be able to come visit You. Ameen.

SHORT HISTORY OF HAJJ

www.islamicity.com

All the pre-Islamic practices, which were based on ignorance, were abolished and Hajj was once more made a model of piety, fear of Allah, purity, simplicity, and austerity.

Hajj literally means to “set out for a place.” Islamically, however, it refers to the annual pilgrimage that Muslims make to Mecca with the intention of performing certain religious rites in accordance with the method prescribed by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Hajj and its rites were first ordained by Allah in the time of the Prophet Abraham and he was the one who was entrusted by Allah to build the Ka’aba—the House of Allah—along with his son Ishmael at Mecca. All described the Ka’aba and its building as follows: “And remember when We showed Abraham the site of the [Sacred] House [saying]: Associate not anything in worship with Me and purify My House for those who circumambulate it and those who stand up for prayer and those who bow down and make prostration. [Surah Al-Hajj: 26]

After building the Ka’aba, Prophet Abraham would come to Mecca to perform Hajj every year, and after his death, this practice was continued by his son. However, gradually with the passage of time, both the form and goal of the Hajj rites were changed. As idolatry spread throughout Arabia, the Ka’aba lost its purity and idols were placed inside it. Its walls became covered with poems and paintings, including one of Jesus and his mother Maryam and eventually over 360 idols came to be placed around the Ka’aba.

During the Hajj period itself, the atmosphere around the sacred precincts of the Ka’aba was like a circus. Men and women would go round the Ka’aba naked, arguing that they should present themselves before Allah in the same condition they were born. Their prayer became devoid of all sincere remembrance of Allah and was instead reduced to a series of hand clapping, whistling, and the blowing of horns. Even the talbiah (chant said by pilgrims on their way to the pilgrimage) was distorted by them with the following additions: “*No one is Your partner except one who is permitted by you. You are his Master and the Master of what he possesses.*”

Sacrifices were also made in the name of God. However, the blood of the sacrificed animals was poured onto the walls of the Ka’aba and the flesh was hung from the pillars around the Ka’aba, in the belief that Allah demanded the flesh and blood of these animals.

Singing, drinking, adultery, and other acts of immorality was rife amongst the pilgrims and the poetry competitions, which were held, were a major part of the whole Hajj

event. In these competitions, poets would praise the bravery and splendor of their own tribesmen and tell exaggerated tales of the cowardice and miserliness of other tribes. Competitions in generosity were also staged where the chief of each tribe would set up huge cauldrons and feed the pilgrims, only so that they could become well-known for their extreme generosity.

Thus, the people had totally abandoned the teachings of their forefather and leader Prophet Abraham. The House that he had made pure for the worship of Allah alone, had been totally desecrated by the pagans and the rites which he had established were completely distorted by them. This sad state of affairs continued for nearly two and a half thousand years. But then after this long period, the time came for the supplication of Prophet Abraham to be answered: “Our Lord! Send amongst them a Messenger of their own who shall recite unto them your aayaat [verses] and instruct them in the book and the Wisdom and sanctify them. Verily you are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.” [Surah Baqarah: 129]

Sure enough, a man by the name of Muhammad bin ‘Abdullaah (PBUH) was born in the very city that Prophet Abraham had made this supplication centuries earlier. For 23 years, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) spread the message of Tawheed—the same message that Prophet Abraham and all the other Prophets came with—and established the law of Allah upon the land. He expended every effort into making the word of Allah supreme and his victory over falsehood culminated in the smashing of the idols inside the Ka’aba which once again became the universal center for the worshippers of the one True God.

Not only did the Prophet (PBUH) rid the Ka’aba of all its impurities, but he also reinstated all the rites of Hajj which were established by Allah’s Permission, in the time of Prophet Abraham. Specific injunctions in the Qur’an were revealed in order to eliminate all the false rites which had become rampant in the pre-Islamic period.

Please read the following verses on your own: Surah Baqarah: 197, 200; Surah Hajj: 36-37; and Surah A’raaf: 32.

In this way, all the pre-Islamic practices, which were based on ignorance, were abolished and Hajj was once more made a model of piety, fear of Allah, purity, simplicity, and austerity. Now, when the pilgrims reach the Ka’aba, they no longer find the carnivals and the frolic and frivolity that had once occupied the minds of the pilgrims there before. Now, there is the remembrance of Allah at every step and every action and every sacrifice was devoted to Him alone. It was this kind of Hajj that was worthy of the reward of paradise, as the Prophet (PBUH) said: “The reward for an accepted Hajj is nothing less than paradise.”



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003

1. Aboudan, Lisa*
2. Arsalla, Hogai.*
3. Ashouri, O'sama
4. Bhatti, A. Lateef
5. Bolden, A. Shakur*
6. Chaudhri, Zafar M.
7. Elbanna, Khalil
8. Elbaz, Abdel M*
9. Fauq, A. Hafeez*
10. Hussain, Jawad
11. Hussain, Khadim*
12. Kawwaf, Omar
13. Khayat, Amjad*
14. Khan, Khalil A.
15. Malik, M. Zaid*
16. Mojadidi, Asadullah*
17. Mojadidi, Homa*
18. Mona, Mohammad N.
19. Piracha, Sameen A.*
20. Rathore, Mobeen H.*
21. Quraeshi, Shad*
22. Shabazz, Najmah*
23. Saleh, Issa M.*
24. Sayed, Shah Faisal*
25. Shah, Rahim*
26. Shaikh, M. Ashraf*
27. Shareef, Tahir*
28. Wareh, M. Faiz
29. Yasrebi, Hosein
30. Zahir, Muhammad

President:

Shakur Bolden

Vice Presidents:

Tahir Shareef
Shah Faisal Sayed

Secretary:

Rahim Shah

Assistant Secretary:

Lisa Aboudan
Sameen Piracha

Treasurer:

Khadim Hussain

Assistant Treasurer:

Hogai Arsalla
Shah Faisal Sayed

PHONE

904-646-3462

*also members of Managing Committee

HOW TO DO EID UL ADHA PRAYER

www.soundvision.com

Eid is a special occasion and one of the things which makes it so is the Eid congregational prayer.

Since this prayer comes only once a year, there is often confusion about how to perform this prayer. Here is how to do it:

In general, when praying any *Salah*, always follow the Imam in prayer. Do not make your movements (i.e. bowing, prostrating, etc.) before he does or different from him.

Eid prayer consists of two units (*Rakat* in Arabic, singular is *Raka*). The main difference in the way this prayer and any other prayer of two *Rakat* is performed is the number of *Takbirs*.

Takbir is an Arabic word referring to when “*Allahu Akbar*” is said and the hands are raised to the ears.

Step 1: Make an intention of doing two *Rakat* behind the Imam for Eid prayer along with six additional *Takbirs*.

The First Raka

Step 2: After the Imam has said “*Allahu Akbar*” the first time, you should raise your hands and follow. This is the first *Takbir* of the prayer.

Step 3: There will be 3 *Takbirs* before the Imam starts reciting Qur’an. Each time the Imam says “*Allahu Akbar*,” you should follow by raising your hands, then putting them on your sides. After the third *Takbir*, the Imam will begin reciting the Qur’an. At that point, you should put your hands on your chest.

Step 4: Listen to the recitation of the Holy Qur’an. The Imam will recite Surah Fatiha and then another Surah.

Step 5: When the Imam says “*Allahu Akbar*” go into *Ruku* (bowing position).

Step 6: Stand up straight when he says “*Sami Allah huliman Hamida*” (Allah hears those who praise Him), and say “*Rabbana lakal Hamd*” (our Lord praise be to You) in a low voice.

Step 7: When the Imam says “*Allahu Akbar*” go into *Sujud* (prostration). You will do two prostrations as in normal prayer.

The Second Raka

Step 8: The Imam will first recite from the Holy Qur’an (Surah Fatiha and another Surah).

Step 9: After the recitation, before going into *Ruku*, there will be 3 *Takbirs*. Follow the Imam. Raise your hands after each “*Allahu Akbar*.” After the third *Takbir*, go into *Ruku* (bowing position).

Step 10: Stand up straight when the Imam says “*Sami Allah huliman Hamida*,” and say “*Rabbana lakal Hamd*,” in a low voice.

Step 11: When the Imam says “*Allahu Akbar*” go into *Sujud*. You will do two prostrations.

Step 12: After this, you sit for the complete *Tashshahud*.

Step 13: After the Imam ends the prayer by turning his face to the right and saying “*As salamu’alaikum wa Rahmatullah*,” and then to the left and doing the same, you should follow.

Step 14: Do not get up right away. The Imam will give a short *Khutbah* (speech). Please stay still and listen. It is recommended to do so.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor

Sameen Piracha

Associate Editors

Sunyia Hussain

Homa Mojadidi

Reporters/Contributors

Imam Muhammad Zaid Malik

Homa Mojadidi

Mobeen Rathore

All original works contained in this newsletter are copyrighted and owned by the authors unless otherwise stated. Articles may not be used or reproduced without the prior consent of the editor, authors, publishers or their representatives. Any reproduction must acknowledge this newsletter and the author and must not be edited or changed in anyway.

(c) 2003 ICNEFnews

To

In This Issue

Hajj, Eid ul-Adha, Sr. Aminah Assilmi, YLJ, and more...

Published by
Islamic Center
of NE Florida, Inc.
2333 St Johns Bluff Rd. S.
Jacksonville, FL. 32246

IMAM

Hafiz Muhammad Zaid Malik

PUBLISHER

Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad

WEBPAGES

Khadim Hussain

The opinions expressed in the articles and other editorial material are those of the authors and are not to be construed as opinions and/or recommendations of the Islamic Center.

*
Send your articles, questions, comments and community news to:

*
ICNEFnews@yahoo.com

Fax: 904-783-0784

sameenpiracha@hotmail.com
khadimhussain@yahoo.com

“When (Ishmael) came of age to work for his father, he (Prophet Abraham) said to his son one day, ‘My son, I saw in a dream that I am sacrificing you, what do you say in this regard?’ Ishmael replied, ‘Father, carry out what you have been commanded. If Allah wills, you will find me patient and stead-fast.’

When both had submitted to Allah’s will and Ishmael was cast down upon his face, a voice from Heaven called out, ‘O Abraham, you have indeed fulfilled your dream, thus do We reward the righteous. This was indeed a manifest trial. And we ransomed the boy by means of a great sacrifice, and left a tradition of Abraham forever for the coming generations. Peace be upon Abraham for he was one of our believing servants.’”

Surah Saffat