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*By Bro. Farooq Shafi / Page 11*

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*By Rabbi Jeffrey / Page 7*



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**Dr. Shanaz A Sawyer**

## **Dr. Shanaz Sawyer, LMHC**

*About me - I am a first generation from London, England with parents from the beautiful Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago and ancestral roots from India. I have been a resident of Florida for many years and grateful to celebrate so many wonderful influences that have enriched my life experiences and, my work.*

*My philosophy - In our working partnership I aim to facilitate awareness and change in your life that is in keeping with your goals. You can expect compassion, empathy and respect as well as an approach that is non judgmental yet appropriately challenging. I will be engaged in our work, keeping you accountable for the work you must do outside our sessions while offering the tools and support that will assist you in making the changes you desire. All ethnicities, races, nationalities, sexual orientations, religious and spiritual orientations/affili-*

*ations are welcome in my practice. While I am grounded in a cognitive behavioral (CBT) approach to therapy I integrate the narrative of your life story into our work so that all of you, the whole person, is being honored. I also use a variety of other approaches to form an eclectic orientation to therapy that is tailored to the individual. My holistic approach to your mental wellness will support your own work in progress, your own evolution to the next better version of you.*

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*Al-Qur'aan* - Ch. 55 Verse 60  
 "Is the reward for Ihsan (good) [anything] but Ihsan (good)?"  
**H adith:** Hazrat Abu Huraira (RA) reported Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said: "a believer is self-respecting and Allaah is extremely self-respecting."  
**99 Names of Allaah- AS-SAMAD**  
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**Words of Wisdom-**  
 "Those who are free of resentful thoughts surely find peace."

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AL-HAMdULILLAAH

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SHAIKH SHAFAYAT'S MESSAGE

Summary of Khutbah written by Sis. Staci Brody / Florida USA



Staci Brody

# MAKE ALLAAH YOUR PRIORITY

Dear Readers,  
As we approach the coming months of Ramadan and Dhu al-Hijjah, it is important for us to recognize and prioritize our du-

ties to Allah SWT. Although it is easy to fall into the habit of spending our time trying to obtain merely transient success, it is necessary that we also take the time to reflect on how our conduct and actions will contribute to our success not only in this world, but also in the hereafter. One of the most profound ways we can realize Allah SWT's mercy is through the execution of good deeds. Allah SWT says in the Holy Quran, "And those who believe and do righteous good deeds, they are dwellers of paradise, they will dwell therein forever" (2: 82). Keeping this in mind, it is essential to understand that it does not matter what your status, good or bad, may be in this world, but rather, when it comes to death, the only memento of worth that any of us will bring to the grave with us will be the good deeds in

which we performed. The five pillars of Islam (declaration of faith, prayer, charity, fasting, and pilgrimage) are among the most sublime actions any human being can fulfill during their lifetime. The Hajj (pilgrimage) is such a substantial act that it actually removes the sins of the performer and cleanses one so much that, SubhanAllah, after performing Hajj, Prophet Muhammad SAW says that it is like the pilgrim becomes as pure as a newborn baby. With the potential to receive this extraordinary blessing, it comes as a surprise that some Muslims choose not to perform Hajj, as instructed by Allah SWT. In the Holy Quran (3:97), Allah says, "And [due] to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House - for whoever is able to find thereto a way. But whoever disbelieves - then indeed, Allah is free from need of the worlds." This verse has a two-fold meaning. First it addresses whom the pilgrimage is obligatory for, which is those who have the ability (health and financial means), and next it declares the self-sufficiency of God. Therefore, if you have the resources and the health to perform Hajj, then you

should not procrastinate to do so. Going back to the unpredictability of life and death discussed earlier, it is crucial to realize that to die without performing Hajj, when you had the ability to do so (according to the Hadith) is like dying as a "Jew or Christian". This is not meant as an insult to either religion, but rather a point to be made that although Jews, Christians, and Muslims are all People of the Book, and all technically perform the first four pillars of Islam, Muslims are the only people Allah SWT commanded to perform Hajj, as a requirement of their religion. For this reason, do not simply make the intention to perform Hajj in your lifetime, but rather make it a priority because there is a chance you could fall ill, lose your wealth, or have some other difficulty in the future which prevents you to go. Lastly, in the world today Islam is being attacked from many angles. It is our responsibility as Muslims, more than ever, to spread the proper message of Islam to others who are misguided about Islam's true message.

Continued on Page 30, InShaa Allaah



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Al-Hamdulillaah- Shaikh Shafayat was born, in Trinidad, West Indies, where he attended College etc.. Due to his multi-faith and cultural upbringing, he was awarded a scholarship to become a Christian Minister. In 1975 he went to India to study Islam and became the first student from the Caribbean and North America to have graduated as an Islamic scholar from Darul Uloom Deoband, which is the largest and oldest Islamic Institute in India. He is the Founder of AlHikmat Services and Darul Uloom Institute Pembroke Pines Florida USA. He is the first Muslim to become President of the Interfaith Council of South Florida in the year 2002 and was also the first Muslim to represent Islam at a Florida State Faith Summit, held at the Capitol Building with Gov. Jeb Bush in the year 2000. He has received many Interfaith Awards including the Peacemaker Award from St. Thomas University. Shaikh Shafayat is well known by Muslims and Non-Muslims as a Motivational Speaker. He lectures throughout the U.S.A. and worldwide on Islam and Terrorism, Interfaith Issues and Cultural Diversity etc. MaaShaa Allaah.

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Ch. 5 V. 99-

"The Messenger's duty is but to spread (the message of Al-Qur'aan). Allaah knoweth all that ye reveal and ye conceal."

Ch. 3 Verse 20 - So if they dispute with you, say: "I have submitted My whole self to Allaah and so have those who follow me." And say to the People of the Book and to those who are unlettered: "Do ye (also) submit yourselves?" If they do, they are in right guidance, but if they turn back, your duty is to spread the Message (of Al-Qur'aan); and in Allaah's sight are (all) His ser

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Ch. 5 Verse 67 -

"Oh Messenger! Spread the message (of Al-Qur'aan) which has been sent to you from your Lord. If you do not- then you did not spread Allaah's message (The Qur'aan)."



Ch. 33 V. 39-

"Those who spread the message of Allaah (Al-Qur'aan) and fear Allaah, and fear none but Allaah. Sufficient is Allaah who keeps account (of Mankind)

Ch. 36 Verse 17 -

"And our duty is but to spread the message (of the Qur'aan)."

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**RABBI'S CORNER**

*By Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner / Director of Outreach at the David Posnack Jewish Community Center*

**FIRST WE ARE ALL GOD'S CREATURES**

Read the headlines and one would think that Jews and Muslims are at war throughout the world. Search on Google for the words "Muslims, Jews, Europe" and you would think that the

only reality is fear and hatred. Read about "Muslims in America" and one would think that the current presidential election is about ethnic cleansing of Muslims. But that's not where I stop reading. I delve further. I read not only the headlines but the stories that are buried, because that is where we can find articles about good things happening between people. Because the majority of the world's Muslims and Jews recognize that human beings are God's creatures first. Whether we agree with each other or not on religion, theology, politics—no one denies we are ultimately all brothers and sisters in the eyes of God. Begin with the crisis in Syria. There are calls for governments to lead the alleviation of suffering of Syrian civilian, and counter-calls to ban them because of a fear of terrorism. But let's start with the community of Montreal. This past December there was a joint effort between the Muslim and Jewish communities of that city. We find a photo of a rabbi and the local president of a Muslim community organization leading the effort. For almost a decade the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding has been active in Montreal in interfaith dialogue. Dialogue is good, but action is better. Those years of dialogue led to a joint campaign in which tens of thousands of dollars were raised by the Jewish and Muslim communities in Montreal to help Syrian refugees directly. This past November Orthodox Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz hosted a Syrian refugee family in his home in Phoenix for Thanksgiving. It is one thing to offer financial assistance and community support. But this rabbi brought this refugee Syrian family into the most private space—his personal home, and hosted this family with his own. Rabbi Yanklowitz has been worried about the fear pervading our country's attitude towards Muslims and took a major public step to tell the world and this nation that now is the time to welcome Muslims into our country and into our homes. And take European anti-Semitism. Read the mainstream media and there is a war going on in Europe that has filtered over into relations between Jews and Muslims, and that Jews are afraid of Muslim violence. Yet we find that last year in Norway when the Jewish community was worried after an attack that had taken place, Muslims in Oslo visited the synagogue and created a human wall of protection of the synagogue.

*Continued on page 22, InShaa Allaah*



**ATTORNEY CORNER**

*By: Justice @ Dr. Ghous Muhammad / Karachi, Pakistan*

**IJMA IS AN ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLE OF JURISPRUDENCE**

'The four Sunni Schools of law hold Ijma' to be a valid source of laws not only upon the authority of the above texts, but also on the unanimity of opinion to that effect among the Companions. The Shafi' is and the Malikis recognize the authority of Ijma'

not merely in matters of law and religion but also in other matters such as organization of the army, preparations for war and other questions of executive administration. Ijma is an essential and characteristic principle of jurisprudence, one upon which the Muhammadan community acted as soon as they were left to their own resources and were called upon to solve the first and most important constitutional problem that arose on Holy Prophet's departure from this mortal world, namely, the selection of the spiritual and executive head of the community. The election of Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) to the Caliphate by the votes of the people was based, as is well known, on the principle of Ijma'.

**SOME SHI'AHS KHARJIS AND NAZZAM DO NOT RECOGNISE THIS SOURCE OF LAW**

Among the Shi'ahs some jurists hold that questions relating to the Shari'at cannot be authoritatively determined by mere consensus of opinion, while other Shi'ah jurists, though admitting the authority of Ijma' base it on a presumption that, when the Mujtahids agree in a certain view, they voice the opinion of the invisible Imam. Nazzam and some among the Kharijis also dispute the validity of the doctrine.

**ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF IJMA**

It is not necessary to set out all the arguments on which the Sunni doctors rely in support of Ijma, but one principle argument of theirs may be thus stated. In a Qur'anic text already cited, it is laid down that God has completed the Islamic religion, and it is also laid down that it will last for ever, and that Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) was the last of the Prophets. In the Qur'an, however, only a few rules of law have been enunciated, and these are by no means sufficient to cover the numerous questions that arise from day to day. If we add to this the fact that the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) his departed, and we can no longer have his guidance, it necessarily follows that any rule of law, which is not found to be explicitly laid down in the Qur'an or by the precepts of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him), must be capable of being deduced from them. It further follows that, as the learned alone are competent to make such deductions, their concurrent opinion on any question must be of valid authority and it must also be infallible, since truth is one according to Islam and all besides is error.

*To be Continued in the Next Issue, InShaa Allaah*

SISTER'S CORNER

By: Sis. Sylmarie Mustapha / Coral Springs, Florida



Sister Sylmarie

MOM  
I FAILED YOU  
as a  
DAUGHTER

Assalamu Alaikum Brothers & Sisters:

Allah (SWT) says in His noble Qur'aan: "And We have enjoined upon man, to his parents, good treatment. His mother carried him with hardship and gave birth to him with hardship, and his gestation and weaning [period] is thirty months. [He grows] until, when he reaches maturity and reaches [the age of] forty years, he says, "My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to work righteousness of which You will approve and make righteous for me my offspring. Indeed, I have repented to You, and indeed, I am of the Muslims."

Mother's Day is a modern celebration honoring one's mother, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is undoubtedly a beneficial and effective reminder for us to put aside an entire day to thank and remember our mothers. In essence, Mother's Day should be every day, in reality, most of us do not treat our mothers with the utmost respect, love, kindness and honor every day of her life. We do not thank her every day, we do not buy her gifts every day, we do not understand how hard it is for her to manage an entire home and household every day, we may fret at her rules and her advice, we may be upset with her for the controls she has in place for us, we may be bordering on disrespect the way we talk to her. Then later in life we become parents and many of her words of wisdom, comes full circle right back to how we manage the upbringing of our children. A few weeks ago, a teenager wrote down her feelings to her mother who had passed away suddenly at the age of 41. This is what she wrote: I thought my life was difficult and that I always felt hurt inside. But to lose my mother now I really understand the meaning of what pain is. Mom, I know we bumped heads a lot and I know we said hurtful things to each other and it felt like at one point we just couldn't stand to look at each other, but mommy I know you are there and I just want you to know I love you and I'm sorry I wasn't there for you in the hospital. I failed you as a daughter! I should've been there to hold your hand and say goodbye! I want to be mad that you left me like that, but I can't because I know you had a lot of pain inside and I know I should've been the eldest daughter and hold your hand and I'm so sorry I failed you; I'm scared. I feel like I can't do this alone. I want to be by you. I want to be with you, a world without you just doesn't feel right.

Continued on page 25, InShaa Allaah

CONGRATULATION CORNER

Congratulations

to

Aneesa Khan & Reyaad Ghannie

On January 29th, 2016 Aneesa and Reyaad were once more blessed with a baby boy- Aaron Karim Gannie. Aaron was born in Memorial Regional Hospital, Florida USA. Aaron has an older brother Aydin Abdul Gannie. May Allaah bless them and make them amongst the righteous. Inshaa Allaah - Ameen MaaShaa Allaah.



Photo above from left:

Aneesa, Aaron, Aydin & Reyaad

Congratulations

to

Ibrahim & Saffiya Ramjohn

On December 17th, 2015 Ibrahim and Saffiya were once more blessed with a baby girl- Zaynab Nuriyah Ramjohn. Zaynab was born in Jackson Hospital, Florida USA. May Allaah bless her and make her amongst the righteous.



Zaynab Nuriyah Ramjohn

Inshaa Allaah - Ameen MaaShaa Allaah.





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Bro. Farooq Shafi

## Whosoever Has Attained Four Qualities Will be Successful in this World

Submitted by Bro. Farooq Shafi  
Sunrise, Florida U.S.A

1. Ibn Abbaas Muttalib (RA) relates that the holy Prophet SAW said, "Whosoever accepted Allaah as the Provider, Islam as a way of life and Muhammad as the messenger, tasted the real Imaan (faith) (Muslim)
2. Abu Darda (RA) relates that the Prophet SAW said, "On the day of judgment, the heaviest item on the scale of deeds will be good manners". (Abu Dawood)
3. Amama (RA) relates that someone asked the Prophet SAW, "what is Imaan?" The Prophet SAW replied, "when you are pleased by doing a good deed and sad by a bad deed, you have become a momin. (Ahmad)
4. Amama (RA) relates that the Prophet SAW stated, "whosoever loves someone for Allaah, becomes someone's enemy for Allaah, and gave away things for Allaah and them prohibited some for Allaah, has attained complete Imaan (faith). (Abu Dawood)
5. Anas (RA) relates that the one who has tasted real Imaan, will have three features: He will have the love for Allaah and the Messenger SAW more than anything else; whoever he/she loves will only be for Allaah; and he/she abhors to be a non-believer just as he/she will avoid being thrown in the fire. (agreed upon)
6. Ibn Abbaas (RA) relates that the Prophet SAW said, "whosoever has attained four qualities will be successful in this world and the hereafter; A thankful heart; A tongue that is always busy remembering Allaah; Patience in time of adversity; and a wife who is faithful to him about herself and his wealth. (Mishkaat)
7. Abu Huraira (RA) related that the Prophet SAW once asked, "Is there anyone who will pay heed to my advise and teach others?" Abu Huraira (RA) answered the call. The Prophet SAW held his hand and said, "Stay away from sinning and you will be salvaged; Be nice to your neighbor and you have become a true momin; Whatever you desire for yourself, should do the same for others and you will become a true Muslim; and refrain from too much laughter and jokes, because then the heart becomes insensible". (Tirmizi)

May Allaah SWT Accept this effort. Ameen!

(Translated from "Noor-e-Baseerat" an Urdu article in daily Nawai Waqt)

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Dr. Harun Yahya

## JUSTICE SEEKING FOLLOWERS OF THE JUST LEADER

By: Dr. Harun Yahya / Ankara, Turkey  
Submitted by: Sis. Ebru / Turkey

Throughout history, people always sought justice. It goes back to the time of Cain and Abel. Today, the presence of a developed awareness of justice and a conscientious legal system is seen as a measure of the civilization of a society. Those who think that they cannot find justice in their countries resort to international courts. But, amidst this intense search for justice, can everyone find what they are looking for? At the moment, the answer to this question is 'no'. However, there was a time in the past when justice was fully lived. Prophet Mohammed (saas) was a just leader and his justice continues to illuminate our path even today. For Muslims, doing justice no matter what is a religious duty, as being just is one of the basic commandments in the Qur'an. Needless to say, Prophet Mohammed (saas) was the one that displayed this justice in the best way possible. Prophet Mohammed (saas), after having arrived in Medina, instilled love and brotherhood in people's hearts. His practices in Madina are especially important in that they prove that people of different religious, ethnic and racial backgrounds can live happily and peacefully together. One of the greatest evidence of Prophet Mohammed's (saas) quality as a caller to peace and love was the fact that the first text he dictated was a peace agreement. Following the conquest of Mecca by our Prophet, he released even those pagans that had previously tortured Muslims and showed great compassion to them. This lofty character was unprecedented in Arabian society and was deeply admired and appreciated. For this reason, no matter to what society or race they belonged to, the Companions of Prophet Mohammed (saas), were always a just community as mentioned in the verse 7/181: *'Among those We have created there is a community who guide by the Truth and act justly according to it.'* The Constitution of Medina dictated by Prophet Mohammed (saas) - and which was the first constitution in Islamic history - is first and foremost a perfect example of a democratic and pluralistic constitution. Today, no modern constitution has been able to achieve the order reminiscent of that of the Constitution of Medina and none have put it into practice like Prophet Mohammed (saas) did. With this text, Prophet Mohammed (saas), introduced a level of unmatched democracy and peace to the Arab peninsula. According to this constitution, all the societies of Medina would live together in peace, practice their lives in line with their own religions and faiths, have their own institutions and laws and would have the power to enforce and practice them.

Continued on Page 30, InShaa Allaah



Bro. Adel Asouti

## For The Love of Jesus (A.S)

Submitted by Bro. Adel / Homestead, Florida USA

When you love someone, you love them just the way they are, for who, and what they are. You don't try to change them to be someone or something else, just because you want it your way. You don't change their gender (male to be a female or vice

versa) or adjust their profession (a nurse to be a brain surgeon even though they're familiar with the Operation) just because you feel like it or its better off this way. (I'm talking about the normal logic majority). So why is it any different when it comes to Jesus Christ Peace Be Upon Him? He's a **Man (Not GOD)**, a **Prophet of God (Not son of God)**, conveyed God's message of **Monotheism**, the same message was delivered by prophets; Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Muhammad (Peace be upon them) just to name a few. You don't have to believe in what I say in this article, I'm only presenting the facts based on my research. We all know the saying "if you're in doubt through it out", But I'll say, "If you're in doubt Read it out". The first command Allah God al-mighty give In the Quran (Last testament) "Last" because its unaltered status for more than 1437 years and its continued in time and existence till the day of judgement. The first word in the first revealed verse to our illiterate beloved prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is **Read** "Read, in the Name of your Lord who has created (all that exists), has created man out of a clot, Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught (the writing) by the pen, has taught man that which he knew not" {Al-Alaq1-5}. Not just have faith and Believe (in the Church's teaching and/or altered gospels written by uncertain authors), Not Listen to what others are saying (priests, leaders, friends and family), Not Watch (the media spreading biased views), but **Read**. That's exactly what I did and I encourage you to do your own research and read, to find out where in the original Bible did Jesus (PBUH) himself **SAID**, "I am god or (God the Son) worship me or I'm the son of God associate me with God". The twelve disciples understood Jesus' teachings and its purpose, and there aren't any proof or ideas resembling that Jesus called the people to worship or associate him with God. According to the new Catholic Encyclopedia and Encyclopedia Americana both confirming that the ecumenical councils only admitted the belief in the trinity in the end of the 4th century. We know only a few people read, for centuries, the church took advantage of that ignorance, and being the only source of information they intentionally or unintentionally hide the truth, but now there's no excuse. As we all know, not long ago it was very hard to get honest unblemished information or answers to questions we might have, but now with the blessing of God everything is available in the palm of our hand.

*To be Continued in the Next Issue, InShaa Allaah*



Rev. Thomas Graf

### REVEREND'S CORNER

By Rev. Thomas Graf / Professor at BC College, Florida

#### SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

No doubt we are all still experiencing the "aftershock" of the travesty that occurred at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston in recent days. Much has been said, experienced, felt and perhaps even left unsaid...but, at the end of the day, where do we go from here? In the midst of the world's "aftershock," perhaps even more "shocking," were the reactions and words shared by those valiant mourners from Charleston. Who will ever forget that one challenge, "We have no room for hating, so we have to forgive." Soren Kierkegaard (Christian Theologian/Philosopher) once wrote, "Life can be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards." So, where do we go from here? I believe that Kierkegaard and those tearful mourners offer us the challenge to forgive, to reconcile and to move forward. Clearly the challenge is to learn from this horrific act of terror, but all is in vain if we cannot move forward in truth and love. As Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality...I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. The evening those 9 people gathered in Charleston to study and share Jesus' unconditional love, a number of our parishioners here at St. James the Fisherman Church gathered to continue anew our Theology Topics in the Tropics: small group discussions. Our group decided that evening to dedicate our next series of discussions to the understanding of becoming a covenanted "Community of the Cross of Nails." As many are aware, following the destruction of Coventry Cathedral during the bombing of the city in November 1940, the people of that church made a commitment not to revenge, but to forgive and be reconciled. They declared that when the war was over they should work with those who were now their enemies, to build a kinder; more Christ-like world. The words "Father Forgive" were inscribed on the wall of the ruined cathedral as a confession of the common human need for God's mercy. Out of this travesty during World War II, sprang a movement that is alive and active today, preaching and living the message of true forgiveness and reconciliation. Is this not where we should go from here? "Adversity draws men together and produces beauty and harmony in life's relationships, just as the cold of winter produces ice-flowers on the window panes, which vanish with the warmth." (Soren Kierkegaard) May this act of terror not flame the fire of vengeance and hate, but somehow be transformed into clear and concise actions of forgiveness and reconciliation. May we truly be instruments of God's grace and peace: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God...Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." (1 John 4:7, 11-12) ●





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Br. Hamzad

## CALL ON ALLAH & COUNT THE BLESSINGS

*By Br. Hamzad Mohammed  
T.T.U.T.A.'s Teacher of the Year 2013, Trinidad, West Indies*

Allah is indispensable for at all times man is dependant upon Him for his survival. Without Allah, coming to our aid, we will all perish. However, to access Allah's gifts, calls have to be made to Him. The communication line is one-way and accessible at any time and all that we have to do is to supplicate to the Master above with clasped hands or with foreheads to the ground and make our requests.

Having made our requests, patience has to be exercised. Allah knows if and when to satisfy the demands of His supplicants and also what quantity has to be given. In other words, our fate or destiny lies in Allah's hands. He is the Supreme Being. He dictates the pace of our lives. By making continuous supplications to Allah, a great amount of good is done to us. Blessings come in tangible and intangible ways. Below you will find a list of some of the intangible gains to be derived from the calling of Allah.

- Gains closeness to Allah.
- Uplifts yourself from depths of despair.
- Fraility in Imaan disappears
- Spritual gloss in Islam is enhanced.
- Level of optimism in life rises.
- The heart gains comfort
- Fearlessness in the pursuit of a greater understanding of Allah gains momentum.
- Basks in spiritual sunshine all along.
- Jannah beckons you.
- Your spiritual bulb illumines with a brighter glow.
- Disentanglement from any web of confusion concerning the Deen of Islam is greatly accelerated.
- An oasis of love develops in the heart.
- The path of Siraatul Mustaqim becomes greatly lit with Allah's noor.
- Allah becomes pleased with one;s spiritual moorings.
- There becomes a greater appretiation for Allah's wonderful works.
- Barakaat or blessings flow or descend in unimaginable proportions much to our delight.
- Hurdles in our life are removed and ease is afforded to us.
- The greatness of Allah becomes food for greater thought.
- No more, hangs the cloud of doom and gloom over us.
- New pages in life are frequently turned.
- The mind does not mind the jogging of ideas that are islamic in flavor
- The heart becomes more nourished with spiritual food.
- Allah reads into you but little do you know.
- Mountains greater than Everest are climbed by us.
- Life treacherous seas that we daily meet become more navigable
- Calmness perrades us and
- Tears of joy flow onm us like the River Nile.

Let us not be tardy in supplicating to Allah. Losses will be numerous if we are so inclined. I've just mentioned a few of them. Can you just imagine the copious others we would deprive ourselves of ? The time is not to late to take advantage of the rewards to be gained from making your supplications to Allah. **START NOW!**



Bro. Al Mustapha

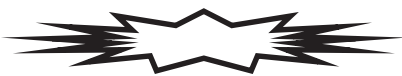
## EVERYDAY IS MOTHER'S DAY

*By Bro. Al Mustapha / Florida USA*

My dear sisters and brothers, as millions of people get ready to celebrate Mother's Day shortly, I'm pretty sure there are many mothers who are looking forward to seeing or hearing from their chil-

dren who do fortunately make time to spend with them on a daily or weekly basis; it's another special day for them, and they're pleased with their kids every day. There are other mothers who are longing to see their children who are usually too busy with their jobs and their own family and unfortunately do not visit or even call them in months. Many Mothers wish that Mother's Day was celebrated every single living day of their lives. They wish they could get the love, kindness, attention, tenderness, the appreciation, the gratitude, the respect, the visits, the phone calls, the company and all the assistance they get on Mother's Day...everyday! The flowers, the gifts, the chocolates and all that is good but, our love, kindness, respect and attention is what parents really crave for and deserve from us daily. My friends, after Allah God Almighty and then His last Messenger, the most important and special person in our lives **must** be our Mothers and then our Fathers, every day, not just on Mother's Day or Father's Day. Why can't they get the same love and attention and kindness for the other 364 days of the year? Allah tells us in the Holy Quran chapter 17:23 "And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him; and that you be dutiful to your parents. If one or both of them attain old age in your lifetime, say **not** to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them, but address them in terms of honor." These are very strict commands my friends so let us always fulfill our duties to our parents. For those of you who do take good care of your parents, and do treat them with kindness and compassion, may God Almighty reward you all generously in this world and in the hereafter, Ameen. Very sadly though, many children unfortunately do not show enough patience, love, kindness and humility toward their parents. Sadly, many children are not aware of the many responsibilities that we have toward our parents and in particular our Mothers. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said more or less, "Losers are they who do not attain Paradise (from the Creator) by taking good care of their parents."

*Continued on Page 17, InShaa Allaah*



Cover Page Article

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

By: Salma Mohammed

**\$100 Million Mega Mosque invited**

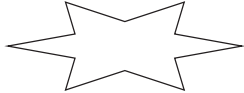
**PRESIDENT OBAMA**

By: Foxnews / The Right Scoop



Pres. Erdogan & Pres. Obama

Turkey was helping fund the building of a \$100 million dollar mega mosque in Lanham, Maryland. In fact Erdogan visited the mosque when he was here, promising to come back for the opening. Well that time has apparently arrived and now Erdogan and Obama will be together at the mosque for the big opening ceremony: The presidents of Turkey and the U.S. will open the Turkish-American Culture and Civilization Center in Maryland, Turkey's foreign minister said. Mevlut Cavusoglu, on a three-day visit to Washington, visited the center that also has a middle-sized mosque, and lunched with representatives from the American Muslim community. "During a phone call, President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan asked President Barack Obama to accompany him in opening the center together and President Obama accepted his offer 'in principle,'" Cavusoglu told the representatives. If Obama's schedule allows at the time of the opening, he will accompany Erdogan.



**THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

**Photo on left:** Al-Hamdulillaah - Shaikh Shafayat delivered the Jumua Khutba at Islamic Center of Richmond, Virginia on Mar. 18th, 2016. He also toured the Masjid which is being constructed on 5.2 acres of land and currently conducts all its activities at rental and temporary locations. The activities include daily salat and jumua at two locations, Hifz program, Evening Nazira program, Pre-school, Sunday school and Ramadan activities. They are seeking \$450K to complete the construction and to finish the project.

**SUNNAT-UL-JAMAAT OF QUEENS, NEW YORK**

Al-Hamdulillaah - Sunnat-ul-Jamaat in New York held an Appreciation Dinner at the Royal Empress Hall in New York on Sunday March 20th, 2016. The feature address was delivered by Shaikh Shafayat. It was a sold out event, MaaShaa Allaah!

**Photo on right:** Shaikh Shafayat delivering the feature address.



**Photo above:** Audience at the appreciation dinner in New York.

**ISLAMOPHOBIA - Panel Discussion at Palm Beach State College**

Al-Hamdulillaah - Palm Beach State College held a Panel Discussion on Wednesday March 30th, 2016 at the College Campus, Florida USA. The topic discussed was Islamophobia / Voices from the Muslim Community. The panelists were Prof. Bassem Alhalabi, Attorney Maha ELKolalli, Shaikh Shafayat, Bro. Wilfredo Ruiz and Sis. Deema Gichi.



**Photo above from left:** Prof. Bassem, Attorney Maha, Shaikh Shafayat, Bro. Wilfredo & Sis. Deema Gichi



**Photo above:** Audience at the Panel Discussion

**Congratulations to Comm. Jay Schwartz**



Congratulations to Commissioner Jay Schwartz of Pembroke Pines Florida USA, who has been re-elected. He won the election on March 15th, 2016 with a landslide victory!



Continued from Page 15

**EVERYDAY IS MOTHER'S DAY**

By: Bro. Al Mustapha

It is indeed the most painful and sorrowful sight to see and hear children both old and young, ill-treating their parents, scolding and yelling at them, arguing and back answering especially their Mothers almost daily. My friends, I remind you and myself that Allah God Almighty has indeed prepared great ongoing punishment both in this life and in the next life for those who are not kind to their parents whether they are Muslims or non- Muslims; especially our Mothers. God Almighty has commanded us several times in the Quran, to worship no one else but Him, and to be kind to our parents. Just imagine my friends, look at the extremely high status parents have in the sight of Our Creator Allah (SWT), do we not fear the punishment of our Lord that we take the chance to be unkind, rude and abusive to our parents? May Allah protect us and our parents and grant us all guidance, Ameen! My friends, Allah God Almighty knows that it's not always easy to be kind and compassionate and patient with our mothers and fathers especially when they are older and feeble, for many it is indeed a struggle, but that's why He placed such a high priority on us to dig deep into our souls and find the patience and fortitude and time to be kind to our parents, and He placed that priority right after our duty towards worshipping Him only. That is also why He, Allah (SWT) gives such great rewards for taking good care of our parents, especially our Mothers.

*Continued on Page 30,  
InShaa Allaah*

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**AL-HIKMAT DA'WAH UPDATE**

By: Salma Mohammed



Col. Micheal Lembke

**AL-HIKMAT ANNUAL DINNER & AWARD CEREMONY**

**Photo on left:** Col. Micheal Lembke from USSOUTHCOM, Miami speaking at the Al-Hikmat Annual Dinner last year, May 2nd, 2015 held at Shezan Banquet Hall, next to Darul Uloom Institute, Florida USA.

**Save The Date:**

**Al-Hikmat Annual Dinner & Award Ceremony  
Sat. May 7th, 2016 @ 6:00pm**

See details on Back Inside Cover, InShaa Allaah

**Saint Thomas University Students  
Good Friday Visit**

Al-Hamdulillaah - Professor David Masters, his family members and students from St. Thomas University in Miami, attended Jumua Khutbah on Fri. Mar. 25th, 2016 (Good Friday) at Darul Uloom Institute in Pembroke Pines Florida USA. After Jumua Salaah, Shaikh Shafayat answered questions from the students. MaaShaa Allaah!

**Photo on right:** Shaikh Shafayat having a discussion with students from St. Thomas University, Miami Florida USA.



**CAIR MEDIA BREAKFAST**



**Photo on left:** Al-Hamdulillaah - CAIR Florida Inc., held a Media Breakfast on Tuesday March 22nd, 2016 at Al Salam Restaurant, Florida USA. The event was coordinated by Bro. Wilfredo and the guest speakers were Paradise Afshar from Ch. 10 News and Shaikh Shafayat from Darul Uloom Institute. Amongst the guests were community members and media representatives and Imam Abu Musa from Sound Vision. MaaShaa Allaah!

**THE QUR' AAN & A HEALTHY DIET**

Al-Hamdulillaah- Al-Hikmat Services held a Lecture on "The Qur'aan and a Healthy Diet" on Sat. March 12th, 2016 at the Al-Hikmat Da'wah Center. The guest speaker was Dr. Mohsin Jaffer. There were performances from students along with a brief greeting by Bro. Khalid Mirza. The event was a great success.



**Photo above:** Dr. Mohsin Jaffer speaking to the audience.

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**MAYOR OF SAN FERNANDO**

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Dear Brother Mohammed

**Re: Your Publication**

Assalaamu Alaikum,

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the very informative publication which you forwarded to me.

May you be blessed with good health, long life, and may Allaah keep you, protect and guide you with the knowledge to continue to spread the word of Islam.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your Publication and may be the Almighty continue to bless us all.

*Hon. Kazim Hosein*

*Mayor of San Fernando / Trinidad West Indies*

**I HAVE NO FAMILY**

Assalamu Alaikum Brother,

My name is Eric D Lozano and I'm currently in the Texas Prison system doing a 15 years sentence. I read an old issue of your magazine in 2013, I Don't know if this magazine is still up and running Insha'Allah it is. I would like to thank your organization for what you all have done for Muslims in the many states and pray that Allah blesses your mosque abundantly. The reason for this letter is because I wouldn't mind receiving your magazine but I am indigent inmate (Muslim). I've been in the decal for a few years now and I'm striving the best Muslim I can be and strive to educate and help our fellow Muslim brothers to be successful. If possible, could you send me an all Arabic Qu'raan. I'm studying the Qur'aanic Arabic and I need it to help me along. Thanks and may Allah bless you. I have no family out in the free world, so I'm doing this on my own. I would appreciate anything you can do for me. Thanks.

*Your Brother in Islam*

*Texas U.S.A / Safir*

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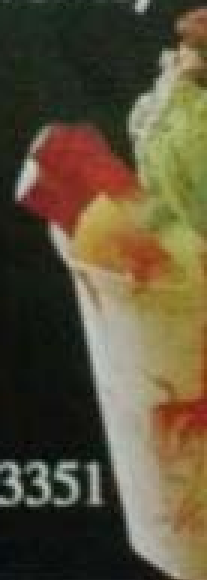
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# The Holy Qur'aan says: Feed Those In Need

## Ch. 63 - SURAH MUNAFIQUN - VERSE #10

"And spend something (in charity) out of the substance (wealth) which We have bestowed on you, before death should come to any of you and he should say, "O my Lord! Why didst thou not give me respite for a little while? I would then give (largely) in charity (Sadaqah), and I would be one of the doers of Good."

## Ch. 36 - SURAH YA SEEN / Verse #47

"And when they are told "Spend ye of (the bounties) with which Allaah has provided you, the unbelievers say to those who believe "Shall we then feed those whom, if Allaah had so willed, he would have fed, (Himself)? ye are in nothing but manifest error."

## Ch. 89 - SURAH FAJR - THE BREAK OF DAY Verses #17 - #20

#17. Nay; Nay! But you are not generous to the orphans!

#18. Nor do you encourage one another to feed the poor / Miskeen.

#19. And you consume inheritance with greed,  
#20. And you love wealth with extreme love!

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\*SADAQAH FOR BLESSINGS - Please join us to feed those in need/Miskeen as Fee Sabellillaah (In the Path of Allaah).

\*FIDYA - For missing Ramadhan Fasts - Ch. 2 V#184 - Fasting for a fixed number of days; but if any of you are ill, or on a journey, the prescribed number (should be made up) from days later. (However) it is better for those who can afford to give a ransom/Fidya of feeding one poor/needy person. But he that gives more, of his own free will, it is better for him. However, it is better for you to fast, if you only know.

\*KAFFARAH - For Breaking a Promise - Ch. 5 V#89 - Allaah will not hold you to account for what is futile in your promises, but Allaah will hold you to account for your deliberate promises. Otherwise (you would have to do) Kaffarah/expiation by feeding ten poor / needy people, on an average of how you feed your family or clothe them; or give a slave his freedom. If that is beyond your means, then fast for three days. That is expiation/Kaffarah for the promises ye have made (and broken). But keep to your promises. Thus doth Allaah make clear to you His signs, that ye may be grateful.

\*SADAQAH JAARIYA - Please join us to feed those in need/Miskeen on behalf of your loved ones who have Passed Away, like parents & grand parents, etc.

InShaa ,gllaah ,glameen, MaaShaa ,gllaah

## Ch. 76 - SURAH INSAAN - THE HUMAN BEING Verse #8

"And they feed, for the love of Allaah, the poor, needy / Miskeen, the orphan, and the captive."

## Ch. 30 - SURAH AR-RUM VERSE #38

"So give what is due to kindred, the needy / Miskeen and the wayfarer. That is best for those, whose intention is for the pleasure of Allaah, and it is they who will prosper."

## SURAH MAA' OON - ALMS GIVING

### Helping The Miskeen

#### Ch. 107 - VERSES #1- #7

"Do you see the one who denies the Judgment (to come)? Then such is the (person) who repulses the orphan (with harshness), and do not encourage the feeding of the poor and needy / Miskeen.

So woe to the worshippers, (for) they are neglectful of their prayers.

Those who (pray) to be seen (by others), but they refuse (to help) those in need.

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Chairman of Darul Uloom Institute, Florida USA*



**SANCTITY OF LIFE**

*Written by: Bro. Azad Ali*

Soon it is spring and daffodils will bloom  
Daisies shall color the green overshadowing  
winter's gloom,  
The corn breast birds will sing in glory  
The landscape awakens to show its natural  
beauty.....  
Life imitates the change of the seasons  
Dark hair turns grey and haste into reason,  
Profound love mellows in affectionate  
obligation  
Experiences mature into wisdom and life's  
solutions.....  
Every life like seasons is a gift to cherish  
Enjoy the changes of color with blessed  
relish,  
It is the variance of notes that make sweet  
music  
Life is not an empty dream it is a gift that is  
unique.....  
Oh moving waters of the vast blue ocean  
Tell me of life mysteries beneath thy bosom,  
Poets have written profusely on your hidden  
treasure  
That life abounds within your world without  
measure.....  
The sanctity of life must be revered  
No matter the challenges today, tomorrow  
and ahead,  
For life's destiny is already proclaimed  
Living life is for the brave and not for the  
feigned.....

*Continued from page 7*

*Submitted by Rabbi Jeffrey*

**FIRST WE ARE ALL GOD'S CREATURES**

You can find a beautiful photo of Muslims and Jews standing hand in hand creating a wall of love and a wall of humanity which they called a ring of peace declaring that the synagogue was under the protection of all Norwegians, starting with Muslim leadership. Anti-Semitism, the Muslims declared, is the same thing as Islamophobia. All hatred is the work of the evil forces that seek to corrupt humanity. Right now the public relations

problem relates to Americans' hostility towards Muslims. Muslims are forced to "prove" their loyalty to America and "prove" that they are not enemies of society. This is outrageous. Instead, let us publicize the stories of Muslims and Jews helping each other and working together worldwide to bring peace to our communities and holiness back into our world. ●

**HUMOR**

**One Spelling Mistake CAN DESTROY A MARRIAGE**

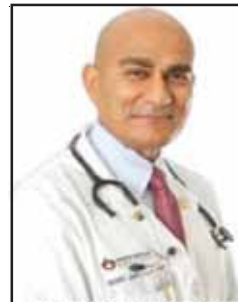
A husband wrote a message to his wife in his official trip and forgot to add "E" at the end of a word, "I am having such a wonderful time! Wish you were HER..

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Inshaa Allaah Ameen

**HEALTH**

*By Dr. Mohsin Jaffer  
President of Senior Medical Associates*



*Dr. Mohsin Jaffer*

**DEHYDRATION IN THE ELDERLY**

Dehydration is the most common fluid and electrolyte disturbance among the elderly population. Many unnecessary hospitalizations are associated with dehydration and the consequences can be detrimental. The elderly are especially at risk due to many physiological changes associated with age, medications such as diuretics, and other chronic diseases. Diarrhea, blood loss, and excessive sweating can also increase water loss. Staying hydrated, especially in Florida's hot summer weather where the temperatures can reach close to 100 degrees, is the key to prevention. The body is composed of 70% water. Dehydration, or negative water balance, occurs when more water is lost than is retained. Negative water balance results in a decrease in all secretions. This "drying out" of tissues and organs, including muscles and joints, may also lead to premature aging. Severe dehydration can cause decreased level of consciousness, weak/rapid pulse, low blood pressure, convulsions, and other symptoms. All of which can be life threatening.

**Causes of dehydration.**

The primary cause of dehydration in the older adult is inadequate water intake. As we age, our body becomes less aware of thirst. Our bodies feel thirst less keenly and our ability to be aware of thirst becomes blunted. This increases the chances of consuming less water and consequently suffering from dehydration. Another cause of dehydration in the elderly is decrease muscle mass. Muscle contains more water than fat and after age 60 our muscle/fat proportion decreases by 50%. Our kidney function also decreases as we age. This means the kidneys become less efficient in removing toxins, retaining water, and concentrating urine.

*Continued on Page 26, InShaa Allaah*



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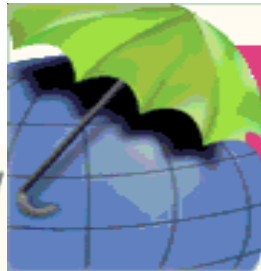
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## Rabbi Mark L. Winer

Rabbi Mark L. Winer is an American and British international interfaith scholar and leader. In the 2014 New Year's Honours List, Queen Elizabeth II appointed him a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). In the Queen's official citation, he was appointed for promoting "interfaith dialogue and social cohesion in London and the UK." He is the only American-born rabbi in British history in the "orders of knighthood." Alongside his 43 years as a congregational rabbi, he has devoted his entire life to international interfaith reconciliation and the alleviation of Jewish persecution throughout the world. Among his most significant involvements through the years was his participation in the negotiation of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See. Rabbi Winer was instrumental in resolving the Auschwitz Convent conflict. He played a crucial role in the airlift of Ethiopian Jews from Ethiopia to

Israel, and he has for many years worked in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, to revive Judaism there. As the President of the National Council of Synagogues from 1995-8, Rabbi Winer was a leader of Catholic-Jewish relations both in the United States, and internationally. He chaired international interfaith relations for the World Union for Progressive Judaism for 16 years. And he has been the President of FAITH: the Foundation to Advance Interfaith Trust and Harmony for almost 20 years. During his thirteen years as a rabbi in London (1998-2010), Rabbi Winer served two terms as Chaplain to the Lord Mayor of Westminster, and was a frequent guest in the British media. In addition to his theological education as a rabbi, Rabbi Winer has long been a student of Christianity, Islam, and the religions of India. Rabbi Winer was a Lecturer in Sociology at Yale, Professor of Religion and Director of the Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Studies at

St. Thomas University, and has lectured at universities and



*Rabbi Mark L. Winer*

religious institutions throughout the world. Born in Utah, Rabbi Winer was raised in Texas. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard, earned his Ph.D. with Highest Distinction from Yale in the Sociology of Religion, and was ordained as a rabbi at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. He trained in pastoral counseling at the Post-Graduate Center for Mental Health and studied non-profit management at the Harvard Business School. Rabbi Winer is married to Suellen, a CPA. Mark and Suellen have three adult children and four grandsons. They hold both American and British citizenship and live in Boca Raton, FL.

*Continued from Page 8*

*Submitted by Sis. Sylmerie Mustafa*

## MOM, I FAILED YOU AS A DAUGHTER

I really can't accept you leaving. I feel like I can't do anything to make it up to you. I really wish I did more than rub your back that morning. I know you tried your hardest to stick it out, but I know there was so much pain in your soul. And I wish you didn't have to endure it alone. Forgive me mommy. This child is not the only one who has regrets after losing her mother. Many of us wish we could have said or done things better for our mother and father; however, many of us still have that opportunity to do so. Let us not lose that opportunity to make our parents pleased with us and to gain Allah's (SWT) blessings. Allah (SWT) has reminded us many times in the Quran, the importance

of our mother and father. Let us not wait until we lose our parents, let us strive now to gain Allah's blessings by treating them kindly throughout their lifetime. "Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him and that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. And out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility and say, "My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood." [Noble Quran 17:23-24].

**Quote: To my mother - "May every tear that has fallen from your tired eyes on my behalf become a river for you in Paradise."**



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WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA

Continued from page 22

By Dr. Mohsin Jaffer



Quadri Ayo Salvador

**QUADRI AYO SALVADOR**

With much gratitude to the Almighty Allaah, Bro. Salvador has turned 70 years. He has spent three decades and half (70 Years) sharing wonderful spirit and making positive difference with many people wherever he goes, either in Nigeria, London, USA etc. It is an amazing number of years taking care of his family, friends and the community at large. Bro. Salvador is known as a kind, generous and religiously inclined and worthy of emulation.

We wish him good hope with more successful years ahead of him with joys and happiness. Bro. Salvador has been well-involved in Al-Hikmat for the past 20 years. He has dedicated his time and effort in spreading the message of Islam worldwide by distributing Al-Hikmat Magazine, and publications from Al-Hikmat Services. MaaShaa Allaah.

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**DEHYDRATION IN THE ELDERLY**

This means the kidneys become less efficient in removing toxins, retaining water, and concentrating urine. Also, chronic conditions such as uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes cause damage to the kidneys. That is why it is so important to maintain diabetes and blood pressure control. Recognize the symptoms. It is important to recognize the symptoms of being dehydrated. Mild dehydration will cause dryness of the mouth, dry tongue, and thick saliva. You may be unable to urinate or have a small amount of urine. You may also have cramping of the limbs, headache, weakness, fatigue, and irritability.

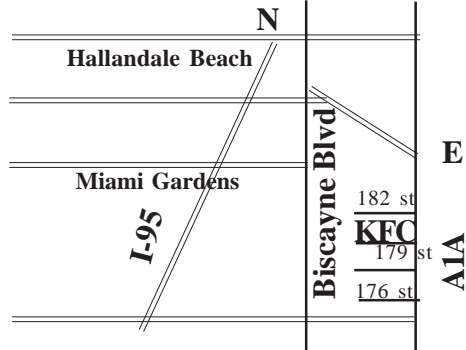
**Tips to staying hydrated.**

- Drink five 8 oz glasses of water per day (1 bottled water =16oz). A good formula you can use is to drink one-third your body weight. For example, a 150 lbs. person should drink about 50 oz of water a day (or about six 8 oz glasses).
- Have water by your side at all times.
- Don't wait until you're thirsty. The thirst sensation means the body is already dehydrated. Remember thirst gets blunted as we age!
- Sports drinks can be helpful for a quick replenishment of fluid and electrolytes, but be careful of the added sugars.
- Your urine should be close to clear. Dark concentrated urine can be a sign of dehydration.
- Severe dehydration requires medical attention. If you see signs or suspect severe dehydration, call your doctor.

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## RECOGNITION CORNER

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## Rabbi Mark L. Winer

Rabbi Mark L. Winer is an American and British international interfaith scholar and leader. In the 2014 New Year's Honours List, Queen Elizabeth II appointed him a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). In the Queen's official citation, he was appointed for promoting "interfaith dialogue and social cohesion in London and the UK." He is the only American-born rabbi in British history in the "orders of knighthood." Alongside his 43 years as a congregational rabbi, he has devoted his entire life to international interfaith reconciliation and the alleviation of Jewish persecution throughout the world. Among his most significant involvements through the years was his participation in the negotiation of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See. Rabbi Winer was instrumental in resolving the Auschwitz Convent conflict. He played a crucial role in the airlift of Ethiopian Jews from Ethiopia to

Israel, and he has for many years worked in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, to revive Judaism there. As the President of the National Council of Synagogues from 1995-8, Rabbi Winer was a leader of Catholic-Jewish relations both in the United States, and internationally. He chaired international interfaith relations for the World Union for Progressive Judaism for 16 years. And he has been the President of FAITH: the Foundation to Advance Interfaith Trust and Harmony for almost 20 years. During his thirteen years as a rabbi in London (1998-2010), Rabbi Winer served two terms as Chaplain to the Lord Mayor of Westminster, and was a frequent guest in the British media. In addition to his theological education as a rabbi, Rabbi Winer has long been a student of Christianity, Islam, and the religions of India. Rabbi Winer was a Lecturer in Sociology at Yale, Professor of Religion and Director of the Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Studies at

St. Thomas University, and has lectured at universities and



*Rabbi Mark L. Winer*

religious institutions throughout the world. Born in Utah, Rabbi Winer was raised in Texas. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard, earned his Ph.D. with Highest Distinction from Yale in the Sociology of Religion, and was ordained as a rabbi at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. He trained in pastoral counseling at the Post-Graduate Center for Mental Health and studied non-profit management at the Harvard Business School. Rabbi Winer is married to Suellen, a CPA. Mark and Suellen have three adult children and four grandsons. They hold both American and British citizenship and live in Boca Raton, FL.

*Continued from Page 8*

*Submitted by Sis. Sylmerie Mustafa*

## MOM, I FAILED YOU AS A DAUGHTER

I really can't accept you leaving. I feel like I can't do anything to make it up to you. I really wish I did more than rub your back that morning. I know you tried your hardest to stick it out, but I know there was so much pain in your soul. And I wish you didn't have to endure it alone. Forgive me mommy. This child is not the only one who has regrets after losing her mother. Many of us wish we could have said or done things better for our mother and father; however, many of us still have that opportunity to do so. Let us not lose that opportunity to make our parents pleased with us and to gain Allah's (SWT) blessings. Allah (SWT) has reminded us many times in the Quran, the importance

of our mother and father. Let us not wait until we lose our parents, let us strive now to gain Allah's blessings by treating them kindly throughout their lifetime. "Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him and that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. And out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility and say, "My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood." [Noble Quran 17:23-24].

**Quote: To my mother - "May every tear that has fallen from your tired eyes on my behalf become a river for you in Paradise."**



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Continued from Page 17

By: Bro. Al Mustapha

Continued from Page 11

By: Dr. Harun Yahya / Ankara, Turkey

## EVERYDAY IS MOTHER'S DAY

If we obey Allah and take good care of our parents the rewards are many, and the best reward we can ever hope for is entrance into Paradise! Remember, Prophet Muhammad SAW said; "Paradise lies at the feet of thy Mother". My friends, on the Day of Judgment we have to answer to Allah for all our deeds, our parents have to answer for their deeds and we have to answer for our deeds and responsibilities. We will have to answer the big question as to if we fulfilled our obligations toward our parents. We should pray and ask God Almighty to forgive our parents for all their mistakes and shortcomings and we should forgive them also. We should pray as Allah tells us in the Quran 17:24 to say: "My Lord, Bestow on them (my parents) Your mercy, just as they cherished me in my childhood". Serving and obeying Allah God Almighty alone and taking good care of our parents despite the many challenges and the many persevering times, will ultimately yield

the greatest rewards and will help us achieve the lifetime goal of Paradise. So do not despair in the mercy of your Lord and do not give up, while there is life there is hope, repent now and seek Allah's forgiveness, apologize to Him and to your parents whom you have abused or ill-treated or neglected and strive to give them the best care and attention for the rest of their lives, and let us pray for those parents who have passed away. If we obey God Almighty and take good care of our parents, and have good relations with our neighbors and the rest of Allah's creation, we will indeed be well on our way to gaining His mercy and His Paradise. May Allah God Almighty make us of those who strive to learn more about Him and of those who are obedient to Him, and kind, loving and obedient to our parents, and may He make our children kind and loving and obedient to Him and then to us, ameen. May Allah protect us all from the fire of Hell and grant us all Jannatul Firdaus, Ameen. ●

Continued from Page 4

## MAKE ALLAHAH YOUR PRIORITY

By: Sis. Staci Brody

In the Holy Quran (5:67), Allah tells the Prophet SAW, "O Messenger, announce that which has been revealed to you from your Lord, and if you do not, then you have not conveyed His message. And Allah will protect you from the people." As Muslims, we cannot be afraid to speak up against evil in the world. In the last sermon of Prophet Muhammad SAW, he states, "Be my witness, O ALLAH, that I have conveyed your message to your people". Granted that Prophet Muhammad SAW is the most excellent example we have of good character and righteous deeds, we should all strive to make it our

duty to spread the message of Islam, just like our beloved Prophet SAW did. Assuredly, by taking on this responsibility, the popularity and spread evil messages will cease. As Muslims, it is essential that we remain steadfast in fulfilling our duties to Allah SWT. This includes performing good and righteous deeds as well as completing the five pillars that have been ordained to us. Only then can we expect to receive the mercy and blessings of Allah SWT and obtain true success, both in this world and in the hereafter, InshaAllah, Ameen.

## JUSTICE SEEKING FOLLOWERS OF THE JUST LEADER

While doing so, they would have to live in peace and unity with all the other societies in Medina. According to the Constitution of Medina, everyone would be free to make their own religious, spiritual political or ideological choices, without any pressure at all. They could also build societies together with people who shared same views. However, offenders would not be supported no matter what. The parties would help and support each other, and they would be under the protection of Prophet Mohammed (saas); any disputes between the parties would be referred to the Messenger of God. Even the pagans always chose Prophet Mohammed's (saas) judgement as he was considered the most just person. This constitution, dictated by Prophet Mohammed (saas) was applied from 622 until 632 in intervals. With this system, the tribal system based on biological kinship was overcome and people of various cultural, geographical and ethnic backgrounds came together to form a union. It is a fact that

the Constitution of Medina is a quite significant historical document that encompassed the basics of unity and solidarity, compassion and love, friendship and peace. It is an exemplary document in that it shows – in practice, not simply theory - how Muslims should harmoniously co-exist with their non-Muslim counterparts. Although it is difficult to encounter a modern society that upholds the peaceful and just approach of Prophet Mohammed (saas), it is clear this is what the followers of this just leader should do. Muslims, by following the lead of Prophet Mohammed (saas), should show the same just and compassionate attitude towards all human beings. These people can be Jews, Christians, Buddhists, pagans or even atheists: No matter who they are or what they believe in, or even if they are unbelievers, this fair and honest approach commanded by our Lord will surely create a positive effect on each and every person, allowing them to have warmer feelings towards Islam. ●

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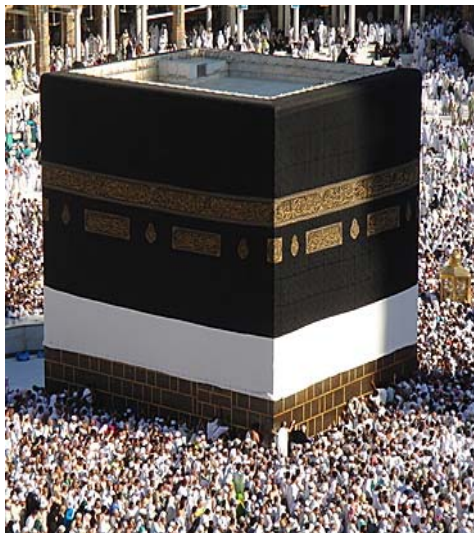
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