

## **Iowa City Al-Iman Masjid Ramadan Newsletter:**

**August 2011**

In the name of God, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

**Qur'an, 2:185:** "It was the month of Ramadan in which the Qur'an was [first] bestowed from on high as a guidance unto man and a self-evident proof of that guidance, and as the standard by which to discern the true from the false. Hence, whomever of you lives to see [158] this month shall fast throughout it; but he that is ill, or on a journey, [shall fast instead for the same] number of other days. God wills that you shall have ease, and does not will you to suffer hardship; but [He desires] that you complete the number [of days required], and that you extol God for His having guided you aright, and that you render your thanks [unto Him]. –"

### **Greetings from the Masjid Executive Committee Members**

Assallamu Alikaum Sisters and Brothers:

May this holist of months, the month of Ramadan be a blessing to you all IN Shaa Allah Taalla.

### **General Announcements and volunteering opportunities for Allah's Sake:**

#### **Parking Reminders and warnings: -**

Please be aware that all cars parked in the disability only area will be Immediately towed and a fine of \$100 be charged to all violators according to city and State laws.

Westgate Apartments next door to the Masjid has informed us that all cars not belonging to their tenants will be immediately towed at the owners expense. We urge all our community to park only in either in the Masjid lot or legally on the streets. The Police department will also tow any violators.

#### **Help needed & Volunteering opportunities:**

- Help is needed for Masjid maintenance.
- Help is needed for mowing the lawn around the Masjid.
- Help is needed for providing Iftar dishes during Ramadan.

### **Upcoming local Events:**

- A lecture: **"Jesus and Mohamed, did they preach the same message?"**  
**Saturday August 20, 2011** from 3:00 – 4:30 pm, Iowa City Public Library Meeting room A. Speaker is Brother AbuEssa (Dennis Kimbal).

- **A community observance of the tenth anniversary of the Nine One One** tragedy when Muslims and hundreds others lost their lives. It will be held at the Shakespeare stage in City Park in Iowa City beginning at 6:30pm on Sunday, **September 11, 2011**. All are invited to attend this gathering and walk for peace, healing, and reconciliation.

- **A lecture By Dr. Mohamed Bashir, September 24, 2011**, regular speaker in ISNA, ICNA, MSA and MAS conferences.

Dr. Mohamed Rida Beshir with his wife Dr. Ekrem have co-authored four best-selling books on family issues and parenting:

Meeting the Challenge of Parenting in the West, an Islamic Perspective  
 Muslim Teens, Today's Worry, Tomorrow's Hope, a Practical Islamic Parenting Guide  
 Blissful Marriage  
 Parenting Skills based on Qur'an and Sunnah  
 Other parenting books in Arabic.

### **Recent Masjid Lectures and EC community wide contributions:**

- August 10, lecture on **"Islamic Banking"** By Dr. Mohammad Omar Farooq, Head of Centre for Islamic Finance, Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance. Email: [mfarooq@bibf.com](mailto:mfarooq@bibf.com)

- EC President brother **Ousainou Keita's** recent workshop/presentation to Healthcare professionals and Chaplains at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics **addressing the care of the Muslim patient and end of life care** was on July 20, 2011 at noon.

- June 2011 An article Published in the Cedar Rapids Gazette and the Huffington Post:

**Faith Shared in Iowa: Finding Our Commonalities and Respecting Our Differences.** By: EC Member Shams Ghoneim, and Rev. Bill Lovin.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-william-lovin/faith-shared-in-iowa\\_b\\_884291.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-william-lovin/faith-shared-in-iowa_b_884291.html)

### **Executive Committee Reports:**

#### **Islamic School/Education Committee:**

**Brother Molhim** has graciously accepted the position of **Assistant Imam and Principal of the Islamic School.**

**The Fall Semester will begin on Saturday September 10th.** Registration will begin a week before the first day of school.

**There will be a Qur'an Recitation Competition this Ramadan beginning August 15** for all the children and youths of the community.

#### **Maintenance and Property Committee:**

**More volunteers are needed to clean and maintain the Mosque.**

**Please sign up** on the sheet posted in the Brother's area to mow the lawn, and /or clean the Mosque as needed

We are very fortunate to have iftar every night here at the Mosque. More volunteers are needed to **stay after iftar to help with the cleaning.**

**As our Community grows** so is our need for more space. **We continue to look for properties that would accommodate our needs** with larger parking area, larger sisters' prayer room, and more room for the Islamic School.

#### **Sisters Family Concerns Committee:**

**The Committee has had in the past four Sisters who served as Rotating Chairs** following the approval of the EC. This made it more inclusive and assured constant presence during the Executive Committee monthly meetings. For some time now there has been only one Sister serving in this capacity. The committee needs you Sisters and your vast knowledge and representation. **Please volunteer to be a Rotating Chair**. If we have 4 Sisters, then each may only serve three times a year. Of course all can attend the EC monthly meetings if able to. This way in case of illness, family obligations, vacations, etc. there would always be a Sister attending the EC meetings. As we only would collectively have one vote on EC issues. It would give us a wider spectrum of opinions amongst ourselves resulting in a more concise, inclusive, and effective participation in all our affairs on behalf of our families and communities. To volunteer: please contact: Sister Shams at: [shamsghoneim@mchsi.com](mailto:shamsghoneim@mchsi.com) Jazakum Allah Kull Khair.

In conclusion we wish you and your beloved families a most blessed Ramadan and upcoming Eid Al-Fitr In Shaa Allah. May we all stay united and serve Allah Taalla as best as we can, for His sake only, and may He guide us the straight way.