

Al- Manar

Sept. 2006—Ramadan 1427

Muslim Association of
Newfoundland and
Labrador

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The Challenge

Never before has the whole Muslim Ummah faced such fundamental challenges as we are facing today. Quran has forewarned Muslims of these and similar challenges. These warnings came in generic forms and it is our duty to identify the individual challenges and be aware of them.

Quran raised the alarm for challenges that we are expected to face individually during our lifetime: “O’ Man! Surely you must strive (to attain) to your Lord, a hard striving until you meet Him.” [84:6]

Quran also highlighted the challenges that we will face collectively, in several verses: “And We will most certainly try you with somewhat of fear and hunger and loss of property and lives and fruits; and give good news to the patient. Who, when a misfortune befalls them, say: Surely we are Allah’s and to Him we shall return.”[2:155-156]

One of the challenges that we are meeting today is coming from within. Many Muslims do not know much about Islam. Political agendas and personal interests corrupted the principles of many leaders and myths and falsehood overshadowed the practices of the ordinary people. In many places, Islam has been confused with the local culture. Non-Muslims may think that there are different versions of Islam. We do know that there is one and only one version of Islam. The message that was revealed to the prophet (mpbuh) fourteen hundreds years ago in the Quran and practised by him in his Sunnah (tradition). Islam which is based on enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil: “Surely Allah enjoins the doing of justice and the doing of good (to others) and the giving to the kindred, and He forbids indecency and evil and rebellion; He admonishes you that you may be mindful. And fulfill the covenant of Allah when you have made a covenant.”[16:90-91].

Islam which is based on the just balance of all aspects of life: “and thus, we have made you a justly balanced nation.”[2:143].

The challenge now is both individual and collective. Individually, we have to examine our faith against the pure and virgin faith as delivered in the Quran, and to examine our practice against the practice of the prophet (mpbuh). Islam does not recognize mediators between man and his Lord. Every and each one of us can communicate directly with his/her Lord with no interference from an intercessor. This is a privilege but it is also a responsibility.

The collective challenge that Muslims have to overcome is the scissions that are fragmenting the nation. This will be easier to accomplish when all Muslims have purified their faith and practice.

“And hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited.” [3:103].

Ramadan Mubarak

The Fiqh Council of North America is an independent body, composed of qualified scholars in North America. The Fiqh Council of North America after careful research, deliberations and discussions has adopted the following position regarding the determination of the beginning of the Islamic lunar months:

- **It is decided to use astronomical calculation to determine the beginning of the Islamic lunar months with the consideration of the sightability of the crescent anywhere on the globe.**
- **To determine a lunar Islamic calendar, a conventional point of reference must be used. The International Date Line (IDL) or the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) may be used.**
- **The new Islamic Lunar month begins at sunset of the day when the conjunction occurs before Noon GMT.**
- **For more details visit ISNA web site at <http://www.isna.net>**

Quran prescribes ways to deal with these challenges: perseverance and God consciousness. The month of Ramadan provides an opportunity to acquire and enhance these qualities. Through a process of critical self-examination of our beliefs and practices, we can discover faults and anomalies and adopt a plan to rectify them. Ramadan provides us with an unique opportunity for self purification.



In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

Alhamdulillah, Allah (SWT) has blessed us with yet another Ramadan, where there is a continuum of blessings and where the reward of good deeds is multiplied. MANAL's executive committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you a blessed **Ramadan**. Based on the calculations provided by the Fiqh Council of North America, The first day of fasting will be Saturday, September 23rd., 2006. Eid will be celebrated on Monday, October 23rd, 2006, Insha Allah.

ZAKAT UL-FITR:

Zakat UL-FITR is an obligatory act of worship and it has to be paid before Eid Prayer. However, it is preferable to pay it early enough so that it can reach those who deserve it before Eid day. The amount of Zakat UL-FITR this year is \$10 per person. MANAL has an arrangement to distribute your Zakat. It can be paid in cash or by cheque to any member of the executive committee

Annual Contribution:

The budget required to keep the Mosque in operation and to execute the necessary maintenance is estimated to be around \$35,000 per year. Alhamdulillah, the brothers and sisters have been generous with their contributions to cover the cost and to enable the Association to continue serving the members of the Muslim community.

We would like to remind our brothers and sisters to make their annual contribution to the Islamic center. Although this is an absolutely voluntary act of charity, but without it we cannot keep the Mosque in operation. It is expected that each able, willing, and earning member will contribute about \$800.00. This donation will include the membership fee of \$20.00 per family. The annual donation for 2006 calendar year/tax year should be paid by December 31, 2006.

For all matters, please, make your cheque payable to the Muslim Association of Newfoundland & Labrador.



Email List

We are in the process of compiling an up to date email addresses list for our membership. Please fill in the appropriate card at the Mosque or send us an email at

manal@manal.ca

INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Mosque/Islamic Centre – On-going Activities

Prayers

Fajr, Maghrib/Isha prayers are held daily; Congregation prayer on Friday starts at 1:00PM. Time for Taraweeh and Eid prayers will be announced.

Weekly Halaqah

Weekly halaqah for brothers is held each Wednesday after the Isha or Maghrib; sisters' halaqah is held every other Friday at 8pm. Halaqas are cancelled during the month of Ramadan.

Weekend Islamic School

Al-Hamdullilah, the Weekend Islamic School continued its regular classes in Quran Memorization and Recitation, General Islamic teachings and Arabic.

Social Functions

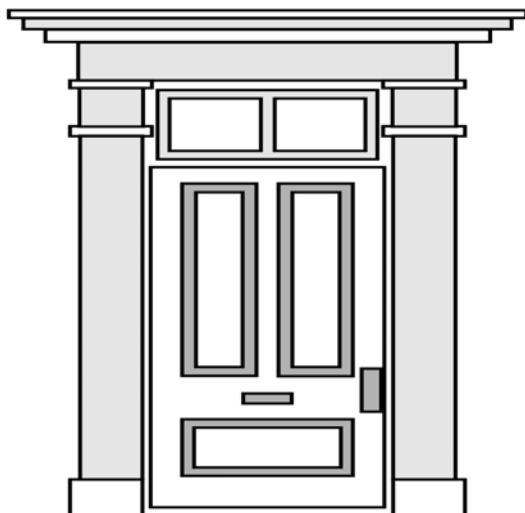
The Social Committee organizes tea parties and dinners on a regular basis. May Allah (SWT) bless all sisters who volunteer their time for the social activities.

Zabiha Meat

Zabiha Committee would like to inform all members that orders for Chicken should be placed on the first Friday of each month. Chicken should be picked up would be on the second Friday of the month. Beef should be placed on the second Friday of each month for pick up on the third Friday. Exact payments along with the order must be placed in the special box during the order day to Sunday. The Committee will accept telephone orders only from members outside Greater St. John's area. Members are responsible for the timely pick up/delivery of their orders.

Doors Open:

This year the Doors Open event will take place on September 9th and 10th.



DOORS
O~P~E~N

 Newfoundland
 & Labrador
