

NEWSLETTER

MARCH & April 2016



MEADOWVALE ISLAMIC CENTRE

Ramadhan

Salman, the Persian (R.A) has reported the following: The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) addressed us on the last day of Sha'ban wherein he said:

"O men, a great, blessed month has cast its shadow upon you. It is a month which contains a night far better than one thousand months, a month Allah has made it obligatory to fast therein and made it commendable to stand up praying in its nights. If someone seeks Allah's nearness by offering an optional act of worship in this month, it will be as rewarding as to offer an obligatory worship in other days, and if someone performs an obligatory act of worship in this month, it will carry as much reward of performing seventy obligatory acts of worship in other days. It is the month of patience and the reward of patience is Jannah (the Paradise). It is a month of sympathy, a month in which the provision for a believer is increased. If someone provides another person with food to make Iftar (terminate one's fast by eating or drinking something) it will cause forgiveness to his sins and freeing his neck from hell and he will be awarded the same thawab as the fasting person will be rewarded for his fast, without decreasing his own thawab."

The companions of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said, "O Messenger of Allah, every one of us does not have enough food to offer for Iftar to another fasting person." The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said, "This thawab will also be given to a person who offers to a fasting person one date or a drink of water or a little milk for his Iftar. And this is a month the first part of which is mercy from Allah, the middle of which is the

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forgiveness from Allah and the last part of which is liberation from hell. If someone relaxes the burden of work from his slave in this month, Allah will forgive his sins and will free him from Fire. In this month you should do four acts frequently. Two acts are such that you will please your Lord through them and two are such that you can never claim to be need-free of them. As for the two acts you please Allah through them, they are: to bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and to seek forgiveness from Allah. And the two acts you can never be need-free of them are: to pray Allah to give you the Jannah (the Paradise) and to seek refuge of Allah from the Fire. And if someone serves a drink to a fasting person, Allah will make him have such a drink from my canal (the Kauthar) that he will never get thirsty after it until he enters the Jannah." (Ibn-e-Khazima)

Laylatulqadr

One of the most meritorious aspects of the month of Ramadan is that it contains Laylatulqadr, the most blessed night of the year. It is the night which Allah Almighty chose to reveal the Holy Quran. The Holy Quran has mentioned that this night is better than one thousand months. It means that the worship performed in this night brings more reward than the worship performed in one thousand months. The authentic Traditions of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) mention that, in this night, Allah Almighty directs His special mercy towards the people of the earth, accepts the supplications made by His slaves and forgives a large number of people who repent and pray.

Laylatulqadr falls in one of the last five odd nights of Ramadan i.e. 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th. According to authentic sources, Laylatulqadr falls in any one of these five nights. The purpose of this alteration is that one should spend all the five nights in worship and prayers, so that he may find Laylatulqadr with certainty.

No special form of worship is prescribed for Laylatulqadr. The night should be spent by offering as much nafl prayers as one can offer, in recitation of the Holy Quran in dhikr and tasbeeh, in supplications and in making sadaqaah (charity)

It is not advisable in this night to hold ceremonies or meetings or delivering long lectures or illuminating the mosques. This is a night for developing a special connection with one's Creator, for offering acts of worship in solitude and seclusion, for having constant and exclusive contact with his Lord who is the Lord of the universe, for minimizing the diversity of thoughts and actions and for devoting oneself to Allah Almighty with his heart and soul

This purpose can seldom be achieved in congregations and assemblies. That is why Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) never tended to celebrate this night by lectures, meetings, illumination or even by offering prayers in Jama'ah. Instead, he used to perform acts of worship individually, and in solitude Sayyidah Aishah (R.A) once asked the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) as to what dua (supplication) she should recite in the Laylatulqadr. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) taught her the following dua

"Allah you are surely most forgiving and You like forgiving. So, forgive me"

The best way to benefit from the blessings of this night is to keep awake for the whole night and spend it in worship and prayers. But people who cannot do so for any reason should spare at least a considerable part of the night for acts of worship. At least 8 rak'at should be prayed after midnight as tahajjud, some part from the Holy Qur'an should be recited and the supplications of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) should be offered. Any dhikr or tasbeeh should be constantly recited, specially the following dhikr has numerous merits:

Even when one is not in the state of wudu, the dhikr and tasbeeh may be recited. Similarly the dhikr may also be performed during other states, when walking or in bed.

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Current Programs

1. 5 times Prayers
2. Jumma Prayers
3. Taraweeh / Eid Prayers
4. Daily Hadith
5. Full time Hizf / Academics
6. Basketball every Friday
7. Youth & Family counseling
8. Providing answers regarding Islamic matters
9. Monthly newsletter
10. Monthly youth programs
11. Monthly family programs
12. Youth Basketball Program
13. Fitness Program (for sisters)
14. Girls Basketball & Halaqah

Special Programs

- March Break
- Summer Camp
- Winter Break

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i'tikaf

Another unique form of worship in this month is "i'tikaf" in which a person gives up all his activities, abandons his attachments, associations and routines and enters the mosque for a specific period.

Islam does not approve monasticism which is based on the concept that Allah's pleasure cannot be attained without abandoning all worldly activities for ever. The Holy Qur'an has expressly condemned this concept. Islam has, instead, emphasized on earning one's livelihood through permissible means, on one's mingling with his family members and on discharging all the obligations toward his wife, children, relatives, neighbours and other acquaintants. But at the same time, as explained earlier in more detail, sometimes one's deep involvement in these activities slows down his spiritual progress. In order to repair this loss, a Muslim is required to spare a time in which he separates himself from the normal routine of worldly activities and to sit in seclusion, devoting his heart and soul for pure spiritual acts. I'tikaf is a beautiful way to carry out this objective. In i'tikaf one leaves his home and family and undertakes to remain in the mosque for a limited period. This unique mode of worship can be done any time in the year. However, it has been declared as a 'Sunnah mu'akkadah' in the last ten days of Ramadan, because Ramadan is the most suitable time to carry out this worship. Moreover, the last ten days of Ramadan are the days in which 'Lailat-ul-Qadr' normally occurs and as explained earlier, its definite time is unknown. It may occur in any of the odd nights of these days. When one is in the state of i'tikaf for the last ten days of Ramadan, he can surely benefit from its infinite merits, because even if he is sleeping in the 'Lailat-ul-Qadr', while he is in the State of i'tikaf, it will be credited to his account as 'worship' in the 'Lailat-ul-Qadr', because each and every second in the state of i'tikaf is 'ibadah, even if one is eating, drinking or sleeping. This extraordinary privilege cannot be attained in one's home. That is why the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) used to perform i'tikaf every year in Ramadan.

Announcements

1. DO NOT LITTER Campaign

Show the community that WE CARE. Please join for MIC DO NOT LITTER Campaign on Sunday May 1st, 2016 from 11:00 - 1:00 PM Insh-Allah. Details will be send in separate email Insh-Allah

2. Project

- Alhamduillah, Work has begun on the Service Agreements which are required by the City as a condition of rezoning (Winston Churchill left turn lane & Europa Crt. turnaround). Estimated time to complete is 3 to 6 months.
- In parallel we are working on preparing and submitting the Site Plan Application to city, Insha'Allah.

3. Donation Pledge Fulfillment

Jazak-Allah to all who fulfilled their pledges in 2015. If you have not fulfilled the pledge yet, please do so insha-Allah. Jazak-Allah khair!

Work for house of Allah!

MIC needs volunteers for Friday prayer & other programs. Please send an email to info@mici.org with your contact & availability information

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Masjid Funds

Start Date: May 1 2013

Updated: April 22 2016

Building Masjid - Phase I

\$1.5 Million needed by start of MIC construction

Funds Needed: \$1,500,000.00

Funds Collected: \$805,000.00

Balance Needed \$695,000.00

Phase II: \$2.5 Million needed to completed

construction (Not started)

Total Construction Cost (Phase I + Phase II): \$4 Million

Milestones Completed

Phase 1 (Aug 2010):
PAID OFF
Paid off property 6508
Winston Churchill Blvd **\$525,000.00**

Phase 2 (Apr 2013):
PAID OFF
Paid off property 6496
Winston Churchill Blvd **\$1,000,000.00**

Rezoning Application
Submitted on Aug 2013:
PAID OFF
\$246,000.00

