



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



AL-HUDA NEWSLETTER FORTNIGHT PUBLICATION

12th JUN 2009 ISSUE 3

Event	Date
Soccer tournament	5 th July
Food Festival	16 th July
Brother's Camp	18 th July
Sister's Camp	18 th July

Current News

The Otago Muslim Association Incorporated recently held its *fourteenth* Annual General Meeting. The meeting got off to a slow start as we struggled to achieve a quorum. With the meeting eventually underway, the Annual Activity Report was presented, highlights of which included the following:

Short Term Objectives:

1. Increase community involvement
2. Organise seminar on Janazah
3. Secure funding for mosque redevelopment
4. Develop design documentation for mosque redevelopment and apply for resource consent
5. Review OMA's administration system
6. Start to implement quality management / business improvement system
7. Restart sisters swimming activity
8. Register OMA as a charitable organisation

Mosque Redevelopment:

Design development and the required drawings are taking much longer than expected. Once completed and approved by members, resource consent can be applied for and the fundraising effort will really start to kick on, inshaALLAH.

Halal Meat Room:

Last year the DCC had received some complaints about the meat room. We meet with them discussed what was required to bring the operation up to the required standard. There was some discussion around this issue and the members present made it clear that the Meat Room provides an essential service for the community and it is important that it remains operational.

Financial Report:

The Financial Report was presented and showed a small loss for the period. Some discussion took place around issues such as the Halal meat sales that are now a feature of the Financial Report

due to OMA taking over the halal meat operation from MUSA last year. The revenue from halal meat sales was roughly the same as the purchase costs. It was suggested by the members present that a margin be included to cover other costs such as electricity and stock losses. Members present also noted that some other expenses featured in the Financial Report were larger than expected. It was agreed that a review of the more significant expenses would be carried out over the coming months.

Reported by: Steve Ali Akbar

The current OMA Shura Council Members are:

1. Chairman Steve Ali Akbar
2. Deputy Chairman Mohammad Rizwan
3. Treasurer Mohamed Ibrahim
4. Secretary Kamal Slaimankhel
5. Asst Treasurer Khairul Azman
6. Asst Secretary Hamad Aljoaid
7. Member Jaafar Abdoo
8. MUSA President Yassar Alamri

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Other notices:

Soccer tournament and brother's camp registration forms are now available at the mosque foyer. All registrations must include the required fee. Application and fee could be hand in to any MUSA member. All registration must be done at least a day prior to the event.

Important Notice

The OMA Shura Council have decided that there will no Salat-ul Ghaib performed in the Al-Huda mosque in future. This has been done in the past when a family member of one of our community has passed away in overseas.

A question was raised recently

about whether we should be performing Salat-ul Ghaib or not, so we decided to discuss the issue with Sheikh Mohammed Amir, the Imam of Kilbernie mosque in Wellington and the Chairman of the FI-ANZ Ulema Board. He explained the opinions of the scholars related to this issue and also stated that they do

not perform Salat-ul Ghaib in Wellington. So, in the absence of an Imam here in Dunedin, the OMA Shura Council agreed to adopt the position taken by Sheikh Amir and to stop the performance of Salat-ul Ghaib, inshaALLAH. For any further inquires refer to Sheikh M.Amir. Contact: (021) 232 7624

Letter from MUSA president

Assalamualikum WRB,

At the beginning I'd like to welcome you all to AL-Huda newsletter in its 3rd publication. I pray that all Muslim students' exam preparations are going well, inshAllah.

It is interesting to see how people at the University and other places are becoming more and more aware of Muslim students, Muslim culture and the Masjid. Recently, I have been contacted by a soon-to-be teacher, who specifically asked to teach him what to tell his students about Islam. Members of MUSA and OMA will be meeting with him soon inshAllah, because it is of crucial importance to give him the right information. This is an opportunity, that Allah has made easy for us, to conduct the right and true message about Islam and Muslims. Also, a postgraduate student at the University of Otago General Practice department is conducting a research on international medical students. Basically, it involves interviewing students about any difficulties they may have faced, how University is treating students (especially Muslims), and whether or not Muslim students are segregated against. So, I think it is a very good chance to talk about our Muslim lifestyle, and I urge any eligible student to go and talk to her (you can email me directly for more information).

InshAllah July will be a busy month for us. This year, MUSA has decided to extend its annual Islam Awareness Week to Islam Awareness Month (IAM). It will not be as intense as IAW used to be. We are planning to have 2-3 activities per week, for the 4 weeks of July inshAllah. Brothers camp, MUSA soccer tournament, and speakers from Australia are some of the highlights of this year's IAM. SO please keep an eye on those. MUSA always welcomes your help, be it with money, with time, or with good ideas, so please make an effort to have some input. MUSA executive members are all students and have their studies and assignments (some have families too), but are doing this for the sake of Allah Alone, and without your help, dear reader, no much can be achieved!

May Allah guide us all to the right path. May Allah be with and help students with their studies and exams. If you have any idea/question/anything, please do not hesitate to contact me on: yasao@hotmail.com. I am more than happy to listen to anything you have.

Well, I think that's it for me now, JAK all,

Wassalamualikum

The Magic Boat (story)

A disbeliever in God wanted to challenge a believer in front of all people whether God was the creator of this universe. The believer and disbeliever have agreed on a time and place. On the day, the believer did not arrive on time. The disbeliever seized the chance to tell people that the believer obviously didn't show up because he was conquered and there is no God for this universe. After a little while the believer showed up and apologized for being late. He said: on my way here, I couldn't find a boat to cross the river so I had to wait at the bank. But, suddenly, out of nowhere, wood branches collected in the river and started shaping a boat! The

boat approached me and I embarked, crossed the river and came straight here. The disbeliever jumped and shouted this man is nuts! How can wood branches make a boat without anyone making it! And how can a boat move without anyone moving it. Here the believer smiled and said: What do you say about a whole universe with its fine nature but no creator? Surely, chance is not the answer for this question.

Wisdom:

It may be better to argue disbeliever from the same point they think of things.

By: Haitbam Al mabrouqi

Be ready for the Exams

We should remember ALLAH(SWT) all the time especially during hardships we should only ask ALLAH(SWT) alone for help. Therefore, my dear Muslim brothers and sisters learn these dua's and remember them during your exam. May ALLAH(SWT) help us all.

سورة طه:

– "رب اشرح لي صدري ويسر لي أمري. وأحلل عقدة من لساني يفقهوا قولي" (25.28)

"Rabbi ishrah lee sadree. Wayassir lee amree. Waoahlul Auqdatan min lisane. Yafqahoo qawlee"

O my Lord! Expand for me my breast; Make easy my task for me; And remove the impediment from my speech, So they may understand what I say. (Ta-ha: 25, 28)

– "رب زدني علما" (144)

"Rabbi zidnee ilma"

O my Lord! Advance/Increase me in knowledge. (Ta-ha 144)

Piracy is a syndrome of failed state

Somalia, by both land and sea became the most dangerous place in the world. Piracy is the top of the list of misfortunes that have faced this country in the past 19 years. The issue of piracy is a national, regional and global problem, and it has been an alarming one for quite some time. Humanitarian organisations have been warning the international community for a long time about the danger of Somali piracy. Hundreds of fishing boats and commercial vessels have been attacked or taken for ransom. Millions of dollars have been paid in ransom and the world has witnessed it without taking action. It is only now that an American hostage has become involved that Americans and the world media have woken up.

One can understand Americans' worries about anything to do with Somalia. The Black Hawk Down is not a distant memory. On October 3, 1993, 18 American elite special force troops were killed and Captain Mike Durant, a Black Hawk pilot, was taken hostage during a failed attempt to capture a warlord, General Aidid. The episode ended with the withdrawal of the United Nations humanitarian intervention to Somalia (UNOSOM) in 1994. The media and international community left and have neglected Somalia since then.

Since 1991, Somalia has had no effective government to assert authority over the whole country. Somali's descent into a civil war was nearly two decades is reflected in 17th century British philosopher Thomas Hobbes' comments that "life is solitary, poor, nasty, and brutish and short", if there is no central authority. In this regard, piracy can only be understood in relation to the lack of governmental authority, a situation that inevitably breeds lawlessness.

Piracy in Somalia is as opium cultivation is to Afghanistan—a syndrome of a failed state. The pirate network is believed to be operating in several countries around the world in the same way as a drug cartel and has become a lucrative business for the tribes living along the coastal areas. Although it started in the Puntland region in north of Somalia, piracy is now spread to the west. It has become not only a source of pride and income, but also a matter of competi-

tion for supremacy among rival tribes.

There lies the nexus between crime, politics and economy as played out in the piracy saga. Piracy brings money to the per-



Abdulkadir Yusuf (M Osman's Dad)

petrators, but also to their tribes as thus political and cultural superiority in wider Somalia. This became invitation to other tribes to become involved to obtain their own sources of income, which will translate into political and cultural power in wider Somalia. Clearly, a vicious circle, with its root in the lack of governmental authority, has been started.

So, the question that puzzles everyone is, how can piracy be tackled? A degree of order arrived in Somalia in 2006 when the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) seized control of the country and helped stamp out piracy, but the Americans were not happy with the Islamists. Through a proxy war, in December 2006, the Ethiopian army invaded Somalia and defeated the Islamists, but rendered the country more ungovernable and more chaotic. Thousands of people—mainly civilians—were killed and hundreds of thousands of others were made homeless. The United Nations described the situation as 'the worse humanitarian crisis in the world'

Now, Americans have two war fronts: the pirates and the radical Islamists operating as opium producers and the Taleban in Afghanistan. At the moment there does not appear an easy or simple choice for the US and international community. On the one hand, the past lull in piracy around the Somali coast came through the respected and feared authority of Islamists. On the other hand, to the US, it represents a bad regime with the desired result. Should the world eliminate piracy and except an Islamists government? Or should the world put up with piracy because it abhors Islamic government? The challenge in the current era of global economic crisis is not made any easier when economic activity

through the sea is threatened by piracy

This month, US secretary of state Hilary Clinton announced measures to deal with the increasing piracy in the Gulf of Aden. She proposed freezing the assets of the pirates, as well as attacking their sanctuary. Both actions have collateral damage of ordinary Somalis. The impact of freezing assets has already been seen when the Bush government, under terrorist financing legislation, froze the accounts of remittance company Al-Barakat after allegations associated with terrorists in 2001. Any attack that causes civilian casualties will increase anti-American sentiment and provide a golden opportunity for Al Shabab (the youth). Al Shabab is a hardliner military wing of the UIC that gained popular support for its opposition to Ethiopian occupation. It controls much of the Southern part of Somalia and has imposed strict Sharia laws on the region. The US state department has linked it with Al Qaeda and added Al Shabab to its lists of terrorist organisation.

A genuine solution for Somalia is possible. Political solution has been found for several long standing conflicts in Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Burundi, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. The political arrangements in these countries might not have usher in permanent peace and stability, but they at least afford an opportunity to work toward such goals. Why not Somalia?

In order to find a long-lasting solution to Somalia crisis, the Obama administration with the international community need to:

- Lead donor countries in an international conference to provide financial assistance to rebuild the Somali state, similar to that offered to Iraq, Afghanistan and, recently, Palestine and Pakistan, with genuine long term commitments to enable new political forces to develop.
- Resolve continuing international uncertainty and delays over the recognition of the current moderate Islamist government, as these give the warlords, extremist and pirates chances to reorganise and commit unlawful activities
- Provide long term funds based on implementation of a nation strategy for law enforcement and justice sector reform



How prepare are you?

It's two days before the exam and you suddenly catch yourself daydreaming. Guilt overtakes you, and you pull your focus back to the page you were aimlessly staring at for the past 15 minutes.

The results are out, and guilt overtakes you. Again. You think of all the time you wasted; lunches, short breaks, facebooking and texting. You think 'had I not wasted so much time I would have done better' or 'if only I focused on the important points a little more, I could have answered the harder questions better'.

My dear brothers and sisters in Islam, regret will not bring back what is lost. To make the most of any situation, plan well in advance. Remember, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail". So, at the beginning of each task, whether it be studying, exercising or something as simple as reading a book; set clear goals. Think of what it is you want to achieve from doing the action. Think of the ways in which it will benefit you. Use these goals as a reminder of the end result, for if you put all your effort in it, you are bound to be pleased at the end.

"If any adversity comes to you, do not say: 'if I had only acted in such-and-such a way, it would have been such-and-such'; but instead say: 'Allah has decreed (it) and what He willed, He has done', for verily the word (if) opens the way for the work of Satan." – Saheeh Muslim

If there is something that will benefit you, make every effort, and go seek it! Seek it out. There is no failure, only lessons.

Amina Abdi

Blog Suggestion and Review

Aslamu alaikum dear sisters

MashaAllah, this is- sue's blog suggestion speaks for itself. The blogger is a Palestinian sister from Gaza. She is a journalist, mother and a Muslim. She describes her blog as being about "the trials of raising my children between spaces and identities; displacement and occupation; and everything that

entails from potty training to border crossing."

Everything we are afraid to hear, and sometimes believe about the Palestinian occupation is written in the blog. She discusses the difficulties faced by her husband who is a Palestinian refugee denied his right of return to Palestine, and the struggle they face to keep

their family together.

Please try to make sometime to read her blog. Her words; though sometimes heart- achingly stern, do always call for justice. Show your support, and leave her a comment every once in a while.

You're Dunedin Sister's Committee.

Blog link: <http://a-mother-from-gaza.blogspot.com/>

Notices

- Islamic classes are held every Saturday at 9am.
- Venue: Al Huda Mosque

Note: If you have any questions please contact sister Nural.

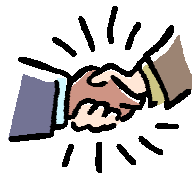
Announcements & Coming events

- 18th July: Sister's Day Camp
- 25th July: International Day/Gathering

For questions, suggestions or comments, please feel free to email me at: abd-dam996@student.otago.ac.nz

Or contact any of the other sister's committee members.

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