*IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST GRACIOUS THE MOST MERCIFUL*

# IMAN NEWSLETTER

**16 Ramadhan 1434 / 26 July 2013** **Issue 148**

A WELLINGTON ISLAMIC CENTRE PUBLICATION

## Community *Iftaar*

As in previous years, there are community *iftaar* organised at the Centre mostly during the weekends. A list of sponsors and dates has been placed on the notice board.

Not only at Kilbirnie but Newlands, Lower Hutt, and Porirua each enjoy *iftaar* together under its own arrangements.

## Qur'an Sessions

On the days of community *iftaar*, Sheikh Amir conducts a special session preceding the *iftaar*. This is *tafseer* of the Holy Qur'an. What an excellent way to spend the moments of fasting time by being in the *masjid* and listening, pondering, thinking, understanding, and learning what the Lord of Honour and Glory is saying to us through His Holy Book *Al Majeed*.

This replaces the weekly *tafseer* classes on Thursdays between *Maghrib* and *Isha* during other months.

Every Muslim must develop a powerful connection with the Holy Qur'an, it is the primary source of Allah's law, understanding it increases intelligence, reciting it elevates the position, thinking about it gives serenity to the heart. In it is guidance, peace, healing, and light to the path to paradise, not only does it show the path it also accompanies and helps one along the way, it will be a companion in the *qabr* and an intercessor at *Qeyamah*.

Everyone must endeavour to understand its contents, that is ultimately the purpose of revelation. But even if you don't understand it, it should not become a reason not to recite it, the mere utterance of its letters and words will earn you points, the Prophet SAW gave an example of the utterance of *"alif laam meem"* giving *hasanaat* yet no one knows its meaning. If Arabic is not your language and you still struggle and try, then Allah's absolute justice ensures you are rewarded according to your effort. O Allah establish the love of Qur'an in our hearts and make it a light and guide for us, enable us to recite it beautifully in the shallows of the nights and the sides of the days for your pleasure - in Ramadhan and after it.

## Church Members Visit

On Friday 19 July we welcomed 40 visitors from the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church of New Zealand has designated 2012-2013 as the Year of Faith to learn about *Syedina* Ibraheem AS as the Father in Faith of three Abrahamic religions; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This visit was to share the traditions with the Muslims about the Prophet *Alaihissalam*.

Sheikh Amir presented the Islamic teachings about our Prophet *Syedina* Ibraheem AS in light of Qur'an and Hadith, including his search for One God, confrontation with his community and facing off Namrood to present his case for monotheism.

They were able to stay back until *Iftaar* and enjoyed the visit. Some commented that it was great and wonderful while others found it an inspiring and even life-changing experience.

## Ramadhan - Understanding its Effect and Purpose

Fasting has been designed to control incontinence [where incontinence means lacking self-control, especially of carnal desire] or الشهوات النّفسانيه [in favour of] intelligence or عقل و فهم.

In other words to keep balance between النفس الامّارة با السّوء [base desires] or power leading to the evils and النفس الامّارة با الخير or power leading to the good, because naturally the عقل have to rule over the شهوة, but being human being the شهوة mostly overcomes the عقل.

Therefore Islam has prescribed fasting - one of the pillars among five pillars of Islam - to control the incontinence, passion and lustfulness or الشهوات النّفسانيه and النفس الامّارة با السّوء in our daily life, and to overpower these, which in Islamic sense is known as *Taqwa*, or fear of Allah, as it has been explained in the Qur'an:

**"O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may (learn) self-restraint," (2:183)**

It means compulsory fast which is fasting in the month of Ramadhan is source of *Taqwa* or source of obeying order of Allah, source of gaining fear of Allah and means of being virtuous and pious.

We have to recognize that only being hungry or thirsty for some time or [overcoming carnal desires] for a limited period is not enough to make a person change his habit, or turn his life from a bad path to a good path, or overcome the شهوات [desires in favour of] the intelligence or عقل there must be some extra effort and action with sincerity and goodness to help to overcome the bad habit. Therefore more and much good deed and generosity is required while keeping the fast, whether in the form of worship such as spending times in reciting Qur'an, performing *nafilah* prayers, remembering Allah, or paying alms and distributing charity, or in the form of social behaviour and educational activities and good characters such as helping community, studying and discussing religious affairs, doing *dawah* work, and being more generous and sincere.

If for some reason or other we could not be able to do all this, so at least we should not talk lie and we should not do wrong as our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW has said that those who do not stop talking lie and acting accordingly, while they are keeping the fast, Allah is not in need of stopping their food and drink (Bukhari).

It does not mean that he or she is only responsible for stopping lies but it also means that if some others want to talk lie or start abusing or quarrelling then he or she have to stop them by informing that I am keep the fast so please don't do it, as it has been reported that if some of you are keeping the fast so he or she have to not talk lie or fight but if some others abuse him or her then he or she have to say انى صائم انى صائم I'm keeping fast I'm keeping fast. (Bukhari)

IbadAllah. As extra effort and more and much good deed help to overpower الشهوات النّفسانيه [carnal desires] in the same way the good atmosphere, special environment and suitable situation also help to increase the value of عقل و فهم [intelligence and understanding] or خيرات وبركات [goodness and blessings].

As the month of Ramadhan is month of revelation of Qur'an and other previous books of Allah, therefore whole month become automatically special period and good atmosphere, atmosphere of خيرات وبركات [goodness and blessings] and period of blessing and mercy, as Qur'an is the source of all guidance, wisdoms, knowledge and science, as it has been said:

**"Ramadhan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (Between right and wrong). So every one of you who is present (at his home) during that month should spend it in fasting, but if any one is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed period (Should be made up) by days later. Allah intends every facility for you; He does not want to put to difficulties. (He wants you) to complete the prescribed period, and to glorify Him in that He has guided you; and perchance ye shall be grateful." (2:185).**

IbadAllah. If we are granted *taufiq* by Allah SWT and have good health, and keep the fast in the month of Ramadhan with sincerity, good deed and extra effort, then we hope that Almighty Allah will forgive our sins and grant us the best rewards. Ameen.

نفعنى الله واياكم ....

---

*(Taken from the khutbah of Sheikh Khalid Kamal Abdul Hafiz dated 6 March 1992)*

***Sadaqat-ul-Fitr***
**$10**
**Per person**

*Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Shura Council of IMAN. For feedback please email to: fawzan@xtra.co.nz*