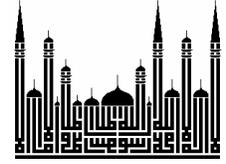




بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



Vol. 11, No. 1

Dhul-Hijjah 1424 H

January 2004

## MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MANAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

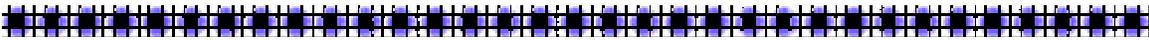
Eid Mubarak.

Time passes, and here we are again looking forward to enjoy a happy and blessed occasion: Eid ul-Adha. It is a time of joy and happiness but it is also a time of reflection and resolve. Reflection on the state of Muslims in the world and resolve to fulfill the covenant of God as did our father Prophet Ibrahim before.

Sorrow fills our hearts and tears solidify in our eyes as we watch Muslims being killed and persecuted around the globe. It is sad to watch Muslims being killed and tortured in Kashmir, Palestine, Iraq, Chechnya, or any other country in the long list of countries that persecute Muslims. However, this is not a time for feeling sorry for ourselves. We should be determined to change our lot around. It is time for action and determination.

When Allah sent His message, He chose Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as the messenger. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) came from a noble family but he was not one of the chiefs of his tribe. Quran cites the indignation of the chiefs of Mecca when they were approached by the Prophet: "Also they say: 'why is not this Quran sent down to some leading man in either of the two (chief) cities?'" [43:31]. It took Prophet Muhammad and his companions 13 years to establish the first Muslim state. Allah did not want the Muslim nation to be built from the top down, He wanted to raise this nation by educating and purifying the people from the bottom up. The Prophet was quoted to have said: "the leader is an image of his people".



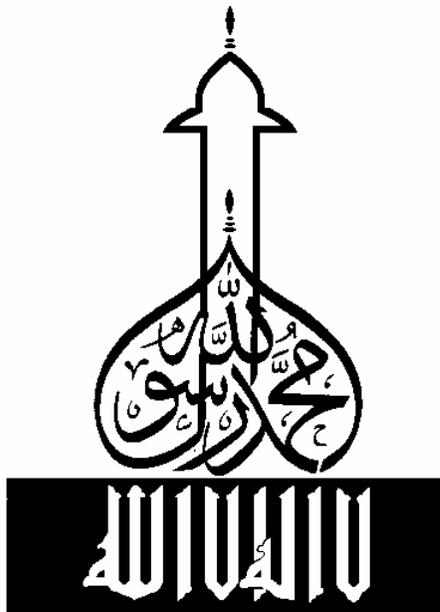


If we want to follow in the foot steps of the Prophet, then we have to build the Muslim character according to the Quran and the Sunnah. We should resolve to be committed to becoming the kind of human beings that the Quran and Sunnah taught us to be. To sum this up in one sentence: Muslims have to be the “Middle Nation”. A nation with no excesses or extremes. A nation of fairness and justice. A nation of peace and love. A nation of tolerance and equity.

As a small Muslim community in Newfoundland and Labrador we enjoy the chance to practice our faith freely. We have the opportunity to fulfill the purpose of our creation, and to show that our commitment to serve God will only be realized through serving mankind and making life on this earth flourish. Our commitment is not only to our small community but it is also to the bigger community that we live in. We have to contribute to the welfare of the society that opened its arms and welcomed us in this land. This is one of the major goals that our Association has decided to adopt for this year. The committee on External Affairs is working on a plan through which we will accomplish this goal.

I would urge all of us to collaborate in making the coming year the year of fulfillment of commitments. Eid Mubarak.

Dr. Mahmoud Haddara  
President of MANAL



Derived from the book " Guidelines of Employment " [4]  
" Lā ilāha illā Allāh, Muḥammādun rasūlu Allāh "



## MANAL ELECTIONS REPORT

January 28, 2004

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Wa Assalamu Alikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu.

Alhamdulillah, I would like to congratulate the Muslim Community, for their effort and cooperation with Muslim Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (MANAL) and enable us to serve the community in an efficient manner.

I would like to share following information:

1: The newly elected Executive Committee members of MANAL:

**President:** Brother Mahmoud Haddara  
**Vice President:** Brother Muhammad Farooq Alam  
**Secretary:** Brother Muhammad Ahmad Khan  
**Treasurer:** Brother Haseen Khan

2: MANAL Executive Committee, with the cooperation of MANAL's members, have reformed the existing committees as well as have formed few new committees:

**Communication:** Brother Faisal Irshad Khan.  
**Education:** Brother Abdel Zaher Abdel Razek  
**External Affairs:** Brother Anver Rahimtula  
**Fiqh:** Brother Mahmoud Haddara  
**Mosque:** Brother Hisham Marzouk  
**Social:** Sister Eman Ahmed  
**Zabeeha:** Brother Amir Ali Khan

3: MANAL has appointed special responsibility to:

**Principal of Islamic Sunday School:** Brother Abdel Zaher Abdel Razek  
**Marriage certification & Burial arrangement:** Brother Abdel Salam Mesbah  
**Official spokesperson:** Brother Mahmoud Haddara

4: MANAL, on behalf of community, would like to welcome new arrival & addition to the community: Shariq Mumtaz: a family of three  
Faig Mousakhanov: a family of four  
Junaid Rafi: a family of four  
Fahed Hameed: a student

May Allah bless us all.  
Jazakum Allah Khairan.

Dr. Muhammad Farooq Alam  
Vice president



In the Name of Allah,  
the Most Gracious,  
the Most Merciful



## INFORMATION FOR NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS

### **Mosque/Islamic Centre – On-going Activities**

#### **Prayer**

Fajr, Maghrib/Isha prayers are held daily; Friday prayer at 1:10 PM, and Taraweeh and Eid prayers as per announcement.

#### **Weekly Halaqah**

Weekly halaqah is held on each Wednesday after the Isha or Maghrib prayer for brothers and on every second Friday after the Isha prayer for sisters.

#### **Weekend Islamic School**

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

#### **Social Functions**

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

#### **Other Activities**

Several speakers were invited to give talks on a number of topics. The Association organised an open house and a fundraising dinner at the Islamic Centre, and invited members of local churches, media, and general public.

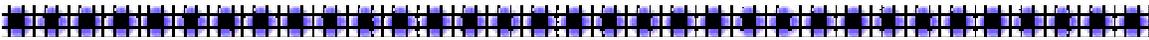
### **Annual Operation and Maintenance**

The Association carried out a number of routine maintenance related projects at the Islamic Center. We request brothers and sisters to help the Association in keeping the Islamic Center clean and tidy.

### **Zabiha Meat**

Zabiha Committee would like to inform all members that the order date for chicken orders will usually be the first Friday of each month and the pick up would be on the following Friday. Exact payments along with the order must be placed in the special chicken 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.

We are again reminding our members to make their annual contributions for the operation and maintenance of the Islamic Centre. It is our Mosque/Islamic Centre and as such it is our responsibility to fully share the costs of operations and maintenance. Please donate generously!



## EID UL-ADHA: THE GRANDEST OF MUSLIM ASSEMBLIES

Hajj marks for us the largest assembly of Faith that the world may ever know. Muslims from every corner of the globe gather for the sake of Allah (swt), at the same time, in the same place, to perform the same rituals. It is probably the single grandest show of solidarity and unity, and it is a special bond for the entire Muslim Ummah. In a smaller, but similar way, Eid ul-Adha offers the same sense of fraternity. We are given the chance to celebrate the lessons of our ancestors, and we are offered the opportunity to enjoy the company of our family and friends. Certainly, Eid ul-Adha marks the completion of Hajj, but the social prospects, the opportunity for unity and togetherness, is also important.

The Qur'an says: "O mankind! We created you from a single soul, male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, so that you may come to know one another. Truly the most honored of you in God's sight is the greatest of you in piety. God is All-Knowing, All-Aware." (Qur'an 49:13) Hajj then becomes the ideal experience, in which nations can come together to know one another, and Eid ul-Adha becomes the perfect time for, if not nations, then cities and regions and towns to come together to pray and celebrate.



Partenon, verso the middle of the 19th century  
"Basmala" by Mustafa Shagrin, 1880

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Eid ul-Adha is for us a day of jubilation, when we convene to meet old friends and make new ones, when we see relatives and greet business acquaintances. We make social arrangements, conduct business deals, re-new family ties. This day signifies for all Muslims a bond of brotherhood, with the strongest link being that of Faith. It is our faith that brings us together, and it is this same belief that keeps us together, year after year. On this day we honor the sacrifice that prophet Ibrahim (as) was willing to make for his Lord; on this day, we honor the courage and faith that Hajar had in her Lord, and on this day, we remember the sacrifices that we all must make, the trials and tribulations that we must endure if we are to succeed in the Hereafter.

And we must also recognize that, as Eid ul-Adha comes and goes, we have the smaller, weekly Eid of Jum'a. The day of Jum'a is for Muslims a celebration in itself. The prophet Muhammad said, "Your best day is Friday, so you should be diligent on that day in calling down blessings on me, for your blessings are conveyed to me." "The best of days on which the sun rises is Friday; on that day was Adam created, on that day he was admitted to the Garden and on that day was he expelled therefrom." (Bukhari)

The celebration of Jum'a is one that we should regard seriously. Not only is it a day of obligatory prayer in congregation, but also it is a festive day for our family and children. We should celebrate the eid of Jum'a as we do the greater Eids. The weekly Jum'a is a constant reminder to our family and ourselves of our brotherhood and our community. We are not friends and neighbors merely twice a year, but year-round. May Allah make us a stronger Ummah, and may the company that we share this Eid ul-Adha be ours all year long.

(Source: Muslim American Society (MAS) magazine [www.americanmuslim.org/10editorial10.html](http://www.americanmuslim.org/10editorial10.html))



## MSA ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



### **The MSA fund**

The MSA manages a fund, which is used to fund our various activities. The fund is financed by the semester grant from Council of Students Union, and donations from the students, faculty and the mosque.

### **Support to new students**

We try to help new students at all stages from applying, to picking them at the airport to settling down at MUN on arriving here.

### **Information source**

We act as an information source for students who are interested in information about Islam or Muslims for their personal interest or for reports, term projects etc. Also members of the MSA-MUN are kept informed of activities through an e-mail service.

### **Rides to the mosque**

The mosque is located at some distance from the university so rides have to be taken for Friday prayers and other activities at the mosque. For Friday prayers, there is a bus service from the Chemistry-Physics building leaving promptly at 1:00.

### **Prayers on campus**

We practice Zuhr, Asr and Maghrib prayers on campus at EN-1001.

### **Lecture series**

Lectures are organized 2-3 times each semester on various topics of interest. These are lectures are aimed at providing information about issues related to Islam.

### **Social events**

A potluck is held from time to time. Also Iftar is held every evening during Ramadan in the MSA Office in RM 3005 of TSC.

### **Participating on campus activities**

Other than the other above mentioned activities, MSA-MUN participates in on campus activities such as collecting funds for relief efforts, food drives etc.

### **Events**

**1-October 4<sup>th</sup> 2003 – MSA Welcoming dinner** for all its members held at the Engineering Cafeteria

**2-October 19<sup>th</sup> 2003 – MSA Website** was updated

**3-October 27<sup>th</sup> – November 26<sup>th</sup> – Ramadan** was observed. Following activities were held by the MSA throughout the Ramadan:

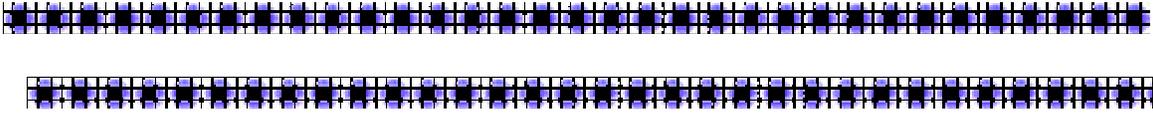
- a) IFTARs (breaking fast.)
- b) Halaqas
- c) Taraweeh prayer.
- d) Ramadan Quiz Contest
- e) Dinner hosted by the MSA in the Engineering Cafeteria in November 20<sup>th</sup>

**4-(March 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004) - Islam Awareness week**

### **Possible activities**

- a)Dawa Booth at the University Center
- b)Night Movie.
- c)Lectures by external and local speakers
- d)Dinner

The MSA executives are committed to serve Muslim students and promote Islam on campus and looking forward to the participation of all MSA members in the MSA activities. For more information or any comments please contact us at [msamun@mun.ca](mailto:msamun@mun.ca) -<http://www.mun.ca/msa>



**EXCERPTS FROM “DAWA: TIME TO COME OUT OF OUR BOXES!”  
BY TAHA GHAYYUR**

There exists a great deal of evil and chaos in our communities, such as young drug addicts, youth in prisons and hospitals, teenage pregnancies, rise in suicidal rates, disintegration of the family system, and more. Nothing, however, seems to move our hearts, souls, and intellect to action!

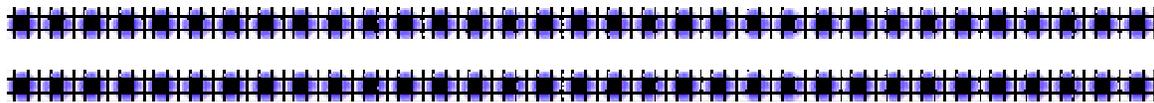
How come Muslims, who possess such a precious gift or a Way of Life, known as Islam, do not feel the need to share it with others? How come we, who understand this powerful statement, do not realize the state of those who find it difficult to believe in the existence of God, or those who are too busy amusing themselves in this world to even care about God or the Truth, or those who live a spiritually-disoriented life devoid of peace?

The beloved companions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) were ever ready to let the world know about Islam. It was as if a fire was constantly burning in their hearts. The spirit of Dawa, or calling others towards the Truth, comes only from within; it sparks when Muslims develop a feeling of dissatisfaction, restlessness, and sympathy towards the hopeless and discontented people around them. Islam is about giving people hope and noble principles to live by.

**12 Principles to Consider in Sharing Islam**

The following few concepts and tips may be useful for Dawa in university campuses, schools, neighbors, malls, and workplaces.

- 1. Dawa is an obligation, not an option.** The Prophet (pbuh) said, "Convey this Message, even if only one sentence (or verse)" [*Bukhari*]. He also said, "Learn the required precepts of Islam and the Qur'an, then teach to others, for I will not live forever" [*Bukhari*]. Similarly, Allah commands us, "*There should be a number of you who actively call people to the righteousness; who encourage goodness and forbid evil. These are the ones who shall prosper* " [*Qur'an 3: 104*]
- 2. Dawa is not just about handing out pamphlets on streets, schools, or prisons.** While distributing Islamic information is vital in communicating our message, we have to realize that our Islam has to be lived through our behavior.
- 3. We should practice what we preach,** as Allah says, "*O you who (claim) to believe! Why do you preach that you do not practice?*" [*Qur'an 61: 2*].
- 4. At the same time, perfection is not the pre-requisite for Dawa.** Some companions of the Prophet once asked him, " O Messenger of Allah, shouldn't we refrain from calling others to goodness if we don't practice all good things ourselves, and shouldn't we refrain from forbidding wrong things until we ourselves have abstained from all the bad. "No," he replied, "You should call others to goodness even if you don't do all good, and you should forbid bad things even if you don't abstain from all of them yourselves" [*Tabarani*].



5. **Use Wisdom and speak only what is needed.** Often times, we explain Islam to non-Muslims the way we were taught Islam traditionally; as a result, the true spirit and wisdom behind the message is not revealed. For instance, it is not wise to give all the details of the rituals of Prayer and Wudu, to a seeker of Truth, before even explaining why everyone should pray to God, in the first place.
6. **Let 's move out of our "boxes" and "loops".** Instead of us engaging in a wise and intellectual discourse on pragmatic Dawa strategies, we have reduced ourselves to rhetoric, still trapped in our romantic ideals of Islamic revival and spirituality, not willing to address the issues of Western Muslim reality.
7. **Show them Islam is relevant today and it is for them!** When speaking of Islam, dwell more on the broader concepts, like *Tawhid*, Prophethood, the Hereafter, and Islam being a solution to their problems. People in problem-ridden West, are more willing to accept this message, if they see Islam has an answer to their social problems, such as drugs, AIDS, crimes, teenage pregnancies, deterioration of families, loneliness. . . etc. and the fact that Islam is able to fill their spiritual void.
8. **Our approach towards Dawa has to be modified to address the youth and the atheists -** we should learn how to raise questions about the belief in God and the defects in the theory of evolution, through educational discourse.
9. **Remember, not to assume beliefs and never tell someone what they believe.** Learn about other faiths as much as possible. It is a powerful tool that would help us understand and reach out to people more effectively.
10. **Usage of proper language plays a great role in Dawa.** For example, instead of using "Holy war" to translate the word *Jihad*, use a more comprehensive and proper term, like, "struggle" or "striving".
11. **Avoid generalizations.** It's better to avoid generalizations like: "*all* present day Christians are atheists in practice", "*all* youth in the West are Religio-phobic", "*all* Jews are murderers", or "all Hindus hate Islam".
12. **Gender-consciousness is important!** Highlight the freedom that Muslim women enjoyed throughout most of Islamic history compared to the women in Europe. Despite all the stereotypes in the media against the role of women in Islam, it is surprising to see that, statistically speaking, more women are converting to Islam today, than to any other religion.

Most North Americans are searching for some spirituality, as well as a purpose and direction in life. Let 's not put our Islam in a separate compartment, box, or a loop, to be pulled out only on Fridays or during Ramadan. May Allah give us the ability to fulfill the mission of our Prophet (pbuh), i .e. Dawa, and may Allah put peace and harmony in our lives. Ameen!

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

(By Dr. Sylvia Reitmanova)

### LEARN WITH US I am a Muslim!

I am a Muslim  
And God I Praise  
For all His blessings  
My voice I raise

In one God I believe  
No equal has He  
Lord of the Universe  
Compassionate to me

Muhammad the Prophet  
Taught me the way  
To be honest and truthful  
Throughout every day

The Holy Qur'an  
To Life is my Guide  
It's teachings I follow  
By it I abide



Islam my religion  
Preaches good deeds  
Mercy and kindness  
To the right path it leads

Upon all humanity  
God shows His Grace  
Regardless of colour  
Nationality or race

Through working together  
Our hopes increase  
To live in a world  
Full of love and peace

I am a Muslim  
And God I Praise  
For all His Blessings  
My voice I raise!



(From <http://www.geocities.com/mutmainaa/kids/poetry>)



### OUR GOOD MANNERS...

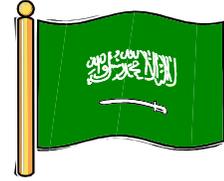
We say 'Bismillah' before we eat.  
We sit when we eat.  
We use our right hand.  
We eat what is in front of us.  
We leave some space for drink and air.  
We say 'Al hamdu lillah' after we finished.

This is the way that our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) used to do it!

(Pictures from <http://muslimtodaykids.hypermart.net>)



## VISIT WITH US SAUDI ARABIA



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, located on the Arabian Peninsula, is a very important place for all Muslims! I'm sure that all of you know that our beloved Prophet MUHAMMAD (pbuh) was born and raised there, in the holy city of MECCA. Mecca is famous for AL-KA'BA, the House of Allah, built by Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ismail. Do you know that in each prayer we face the direction of Al-K'aba: QIBLA? Al-Ka'ba is surrounded by the great AL-HARAM MOSQUE. The prayer in this mosque is 100,000-times better than in any other mosque! Every year millions of Muslims from around the world come to Mecca for pilgrimage, HAJJ, to worship Allah and ask Him for forgiveness of our bad deeds. Can you imagine 2 million people in one place? What a great celebration of our religion!



We can't forget MADINA, the Prophet's city where the first Muslim nation, UMMA, was established. People like to visit Allah's Messenger (pbuh) there. And don't forget: the prayer in the PROPHET'S MOSQUE is 1,000-times better than in any other mosque!

There are many other cities in Saudi Arabia like Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran where many Muslims live and work. Allah blessed this place with the rich oil areas.

## LET'S REMEMBER!



Before every prayer  
we make wudu  
(clean ourselves).  
We pray five times daily  
at Fajr, Zuhr, 'Asr,  
Maghrib and 'Isha times,  
as Allah prescribed for us.



