

# Al-Huda Islamic Center

## Newsletter

### LETTER from the IMAM

Bismillah. Last Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> I received a phone call from a brother in Toronto, Canada who announced that his daughter Sabin had given birth to a baby-girl named Anya in St. Mary's Hospital. Anya means graceful; the word is also used in the Qur'an 76-15, to mean the vessels of Paradise. Since Anya's father, br. Avis Sujana is very ill (may Allah be with him), I was asked to welcome her by announcing the Adhaan in her right ear and the Iqamah in the left one. When I finished the prayer calls, I felt the importance and blessing of being part of a community of believers, where everyone is a brother or a sister of everyone else. Where if one falls ill or suffers an affliction, many will be there to support, comfort, or make the Adhaan and Iqamah. In Surah # 9 (At-Taubah) verse 71:

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي  
مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَمَسَاكِنَ  
طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ وَرِضْوَانٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ  
أَكْبَرُ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

“ The believers men and women are Auliya (helpers, supporters, friends, allies and protectors) of one another, they enjoy good and forbid evil, they perform prayers and give zakah, and they obey Allah and His Messenger, Allah will have His Mercy on them. Surely, Allah is All-Mighty All-Wise”.

A visit to the hospital makes one realize the blessing of good health; it brings to mind a number of sayings (ahadith) of the Messenger of Allah (salla Allahu alayhe wa salaam): “There are two bounties that many people do not take full advantage of, health and free time” (Recorded by al-Bukhari); another hadiths

elaborates on these and other bounties and urges us to hasten in doing good deeds and not to procrastinate “ Take advantage of five (opportunities) before five occur: Your life before your death, your health before your illness, your free time before your preoccupation, your youth before your old age, and your wealth before your poverty” (Recorded by al-Hakim, al-Baihaqi, and Ahmed). Youthfulness is the biggest window of opportunity, usually during that period one enjoys peak health, energy and free time; the scholars agreed that youthfulness begins at puberty, but they have differed as to when it ends, thirty, thirty two, forty, and fifty two are the suggested end points.

Let us remember to thank Allah for giving us our community and let us resolve to take full advantage of our lives, health and togetherness. Let us join hands in building a caring and a cooperative community of believers, Allah willing, this first issue of our community Newsletter is a step in that direction, let us pray to Allah (SWT) to bless our efforts.

- Shaykh Hisham Ahmed

### FINANCIAL NEWS

For the first time since Ramadan, donations in February exceeded expenses. The board thanks the community for its support and asks that you continue to support the masjid. In order to cut expenses we have cancelled the outdoor lighting package which was costing us approximately \$90/month as well as lowered the services on the phone line which was also costing approximately \$90/month.

Donations Received: \$5454.00  
Expenses: \$2979.07

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*A community cannot for long feed on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers." – Howard Thurman*

**A warm welcome to the new members of our Athens community:**

- Br. Tareq Gaballah and Family (from Texas)
- Br. Ali Ismail and Family (from Florida)
- Br. Mustafa Bin Tucker and Family (from Illinois)
- Br. Habeeb Chaudhry and Family (from Wisconsin)
- Br. Hussein Abdel-Haleem Family (from Montana)
- Br. Ibrahim (from Turkey)
- Br. Saif (from Flowery Branch, GA)
- Br. Haitham (from Sudan)
- Br. Aamir Alanzi (from Saudi Arabia)

*"People who say they sleep like a baby usually don't have one."  
– Anonymous*

**Congratulations to the proud parents of:**

- Areej Ahmed (03/10/04)
- Sarah AlHarbi
- Samiuddin Masihuddin
- Aseel Mansour (05/07/04)
- Ali AlMeniei (10/14/04)
- Mustafa Shamat (10/30/04)
- Asrar Nasreldein (12/09/04)
- Yahya Trabelsi (01/14/05)
- Tebian Hamza (02/02/05)
- Malik Pemy (02/10/05)
- Anya Sujana (03/05/05)

## IMPORTANCE OF JUMMAH PRAYER

Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic Year. It also reminds all of us about the "Hijra" ( Migration) of the Prophet Mohammad (SAW). The Imam has talked about the "hijra" in his Friday khutba in the past couple of weeks. Every time I listen to it or read about it, I'm reminded of the fact that most of us have also migrated from our countries for one reason or another. Regardless of our reasons for this migration, the thing that unites us here is our religion. During my Residency in Flint, MI, one Friday I forgot the day of the week and missed the Juma prayer. At 5PM when I was signing out to the night person, he stopped me and said "I thought you were not working today since you were not in the Juma prayer". When I told him that I had forgotten it was Juma, he became so mad at me that he reminded me of my father. He was actually my junior and before that day we had just exchanged salaams and he was angry at me for forgetting the Juma. He was from Iraq and I from Pakistan. I have never forgotten Juma since that day. He told me that in this country there is no one to remind us about our Farz but ourselves. If you forget Juma one time and don't think it is a big deal, you'll forget it again and again. If you forget it, your children will not even remember it to forget. He asked me to behave in the same way if he forgot one of his farz. With this , I congratulate the Public Relations Committee (PRC) and the MSA on launching this newsletter and hope we continue to encourage each other to do as many good deeds as possible and remind each other of our farz regardless of our relationship to the other person.

- Syed A. Rizvi  
Chairperson

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**HADITH: The Virtues of Attending Congregational Prayers in the Masjid**

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: A man's prayer in congregation is more valuable than twenty degrees and some above them as compared with his prayer in his house and his market, for when he performs ablution doing it well, then goes out to the mosque, and he is impelled (to do so) only by (the love of congregational) prayer, he has no other objective before him but prayer. He does not take a step without being raised a degree for it and having a sin remitted for it, till he enters the mosque, and when he is busy in prayer after having entered the mosque. The angels continue to invoke blessing on him as long as he is in his place of worship, saying: O Allah, show him mercy, and pardon him! Accept his repentance (and the angels continue this supplication for him) so long as he does not do any harm in it, or as long as his ablution is not broken. (Muslim, Book #004, Hadith #1394)

ending the week with our annual fundraising dinner, **Faces of Islam**, on Sunday April 24th. This year we are fundraising to help victims of the Tsunami in Southeast Asia. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Soumaya Khalifa from the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta. More details on her topic, program content, and tickets to come.

**Please pray for the fast and full recovery of the following:**

*Br. Aman Khashegi, Br. Mousa Jammoul, Br. Musa Musa and Br. Avis Sujan*

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

Weekly Meetings

- Saturdays 1:00–5:00 P.M., Studies and Sports

Monthly Itekaf and Tahhajud

- Friday 03/11/2005, Isha to Fajr

**Muslim Student Association Corner**

Currently the MSA is working on preparations for an Islamic Awareness Week scheduled inshaAllah for April 18 – 22, 2005. The events of the week include: Internal speaker (TBA), Movie – The Message, Tate extravaganza with Qur’an recitation and Islamic facts, and an informal student interfaith panel. We plan on

March 2005 Prayer Times						
Day	Date	Fajr	Dhuhr	Asr	Magh	Isha
Mon	2/28	5:53	12:46	4:02	6:31	7:39
Mon	3/7	5:45	12:45	4:05	6:36	7:44
Mon	3/14	5:36	12:43	4:07	6:41	7:50
Mon	3/21	5:26	12:41	4:09	6:47	7:56
Mon	3/28	5:16	12:39	4:11	6:52	8:02
Jummah .....						1:30 pm

**Designed & Created by:  
Sister Naureen Kamdar**

For questions/comments/concerns,  
please email:  
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# Al-Huda Islamic Center Leadership

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (SHURA)**

- Ismailcem Arpinar
- Thiab Taha
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- Mahbub Islam
- Emad Uddin Ahmed
- Abid Bashir
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## **EXPANSION SUB-COMMITTEE**

Syed Rizvi - Coordinator

## **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Yassin Mohamed - Coordinator

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mohamed Sherif Bacchus - Coordinator

## **SISTERS COMMITTEE**

To be announced

**For Additional Information on the Committees, please contact:**

Thiab Taha

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