



Fiysabiylillah
Compassionate Aid Organization

Newsletter

2011

السنة عليك

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



May the Peace and Blessings of Allah (SWT) be upon you all.

It has been a very busy year for Fiysabiylillah with much accomplished by the will of Almighty Allah. As always, we were challenged with the small number of dedicated volunteers, big ideas, and never enough time to do all that we wished. Alhamdulillah, we continued to improve, grow, and redefine ourselves regardless.

Our biggest improvement this year was our presence on the web and embracing social media. www.fiysabiylillah.org will help make it easier for the world to get to know who we are and what we do, as well as making

it more convenient with online donations possible. We encourage everyone to check us out, bookmark us, and share our link with friends and family.



Fiysabiylillah also now has its own Facebook page that will help all our volunteers stay abreast of what is happening within the organization. Insha Allah this will allow us to build a network of compassionate donors, volunteers, and members that will take Fiysabiylillah into projects and places we would never have imagined.

Beyond everything we may click, link, or read, the heart of our organization is and will always be, compassionate aid provided by individuals with a desire for action to help those in need. Among many things accomplished in 2011, we provided over three hundred local Ramadhan food hampers and close to a thousand globally this year - the most ever! We also held a successful Eid-ul Adha party for low income children in the Toronto west-end, with close to one hundred and fifty children and mothers sharing in the festivities. Alhamdulillah, we completed our two-year international project to benefit the needy women of Afghanistan. As a result, Fiysabiylillah and its donors have made possible a maternity ward and midwife training program in the Falah Hospital located in the Kunduz province of Afghanistan, Masha Allah.

Looking ahead to 2012; we will be moving to our new location at 421 Nugget Ave (Unit 6) in Toronto, launching our new international project in Somalia at our Annual Gala Event in January, and we will continue to be a compassionate presence in our local community with the will of Allah (SWT). I don't expect us being any less busy in the New Year!

As always, this organization rests on the shoulders of individuals who look at helping others as an opportunity to be closer to Almighty Allah. We would be remiss in not thanking everyone who has touched us in some way this year - Thank You and Jazak Allahul Khair!

Nafeeza Hooseinny



2011 Eid-ul-Adha Party

"By Time! Verily man is in loss. Except those who believe and do righteous deeds and help one another to the truth and help one another to patience.

Holy Quran, Al Asr, s103

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2011/12 Upcoming

Activities

- Open House of New Location (December)
- Annual Gala Event-Somalia (January)
- Eid Hamper Project -local/int'l(August)
- Children's Eid-ul Adha Party (November)



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CARAVAN OF HOPE

Azeez Hoosainny

My spouse and I were in Guyana to visit my in laws when the organization Beit-ul-Rahma (House of Mercy) invited us to accompany them on one of their monthly outreach programs. Fiysabiyillah has worked with the Beit-ul-Rahma over the years to provide medical assistance and clothing to the poor and needy in the remote areas of Guyana.

The mission on this trip, like all the monthly trips, was to take food, clothing and medical supplies for the needy. The area we visited covered a large area of the west coast of Demerara. The destination was the Metemeerzorg Masjid where the medical clinic, food and clothing distribution centres would be set-up.

We arrived at the Queenstown Masjid compound after Fajr and met the 15 volunteers including doctors, nurses and Mr. SMV Nasser, the founder and President. We were assigned a van to travel in with some of the volunteers. The many volunteers loaded the truck and vans with the food, medicines and clothing in Georgetown and headed out of the city. We travelled along the East Bank of the Demerara River, crossed the long floating bridge to the Masjid on the West Coast.

We arrived at our destination around 10am. The Masjid facility was quite large with a separate school building and a large covered area adjoining the Masjid. The needy had gathered at the facility and were sitting quite orderly on wooden benches. Before we started Mr. Nasser explained the process to us and led us all in a short prayer (Dua) to glorify and praise Allah SWT. The volunteers who had travelled with the caravan from the city and other local volunteers set up the medical clinic in the school classrooms and the food and clothing in the covered area.

The clinic started and all the sick were able to see the doctors and had their prescribed medication dispensed by a professional person. Each patient was also registered and a patient card was opened for them. I was very impressed with the orderliness and the quality of the service that was delivered to the obviously sick. It was also impressive to know that the doctors and the nurses had volunteered their time free of charge and that the drugs were all donated.

While the clinic was in progress, some volunteers set up the clothing distribution area and others packaged the food in bags. The food included basic necessities like rice, onions, flour, sugar, etc. These were also distributed in a very orderly manner and it was very satisfying to see the appreciation in the faces of those who came for help. On behalf of Fiysabiyillah Compassionate Aid Organization we also distributed Holy Quran's and gave a donation to Beit-ul-Rahma to assist in the cost of supplies.

We completed the program around 3pm and one of the local families prepared meals for the volunteers which was full of the unmatched Guyanese hospitality. We travelled back to Georgetown after praying Salaat Al-Asr. It was quite a successful trip and for me personally a very fulfilling one. We encountered people who willingly and freely were giving of themselves and their time, for others. It underlines the essence of Islamic values wherein those who are blessed in this Life, are reaching out in a compassionate gesture to those who are not, without any desire for reward except that which is promised by Allah SWT. Everyone was a volunteer and may Allah SWT reward them all and bless those who organize and deliver these immense acts of kindness to His creation.



SHE SHALL MAINTAIN

Shireen

*Often times it's a struggle when you're on your own.
Maybe you've got some family but they can't make the home.*

*You are the mother and father to your children,
Often people don't understand the situation.
They take it as a cause instead of following the root,
They try to determine the reason, instead of focusing on the fruit.*

*But that's the nature of man.
They don't understand unless they have been dealt with the same hand.*

*So you remain emotionally isolated though you're fighting to maintain,
Trying to hold on to your dreams for you and your family,
Even though your situation is no longer the same.*

*It can be an upward battle,
Grouped together like a herd of cattle.
So you ask yourself, what path must I take?
Successful is she who makes moves for Allah's sake.
Your eyes may be wet in silent tears,
But it's The All Hearing, The All Knowing that cures your fears.*

*You can never make another man's wrongs right.
You can only purify, perfect and rise beyond the eternal fight.*

*Forgive to be Forgiven by He,
Strive purposefully with your objective only on eternity.*

*What appears to be
Isn't actually reality.*

Light in your life and heart only comes by following One Command.

Don't be disillusioned to think it's rising to the social demand.

*I stand with you and direct your hands,
Face them upwards towards He Who Controls All,
He who Commands.*

Even if you stand alone, know Allah is Aware, He upon His Mighty Throne!

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Save yourself from the hellfire by giving even half a date-fruit in charity."

Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume 2, Hadith 498

ONLY A STREETLIGHT AWAY

Lul Hassan



One Saturday afternoon I had the opportunity to get a much needed transformative view of my neighbours. People who I merely used to pass on the street became real as they let me into their homes and shared personal stories of sorrow, pain, strength, survival and triumph. I assumed everybody in my West end neighbourhood in Etobicoke was living the same middle class lifestyle I was. I never worried about the food I was going to eat or the clothing I was going to wear. What I learned after this experience was that I was comfortable in a way many were not, and the difference was only a streetlight away.

A little background: I was asked to go along to Fiyasbiylillah (FCAO) to help translate for families that did not speak English and could only speak Somali. At first I was incredibly apprehensive about invading people's homes, and particularly how comfortable they would feel about revealing their needs to me. In my culture there is a very strong sense of pride and independence. We're taught to take care of ourselves. But I realized that these people must be in dire situations if they're reaching out for help. I didn't know quite how dire until we visited our first home. We sat in the small living room of a slight woman who was taking care of several young children including a 20 year old son with a disability that left him unable to do anything but lie prone in his bed. She could not work because she was the primary caregiver in every aspect. She spoke of the difficulties, as her son got older, of just being able to lift him to dress him. She talked about her physical weakness, but all I saw was mental and emotional strength, because even as she spoke, her eyes tired and weary, I could still hear the love for her son in her voice. It was also her 13 year old daughter who showed us that charity can be paid back in small, but powerful ways.

It just so happened that the lady from the first home knew several of the other people on our list. She told us that many of them didn't speak Somali, but a dialect of Swahili. Her 13 year old daughter, who had been quiet up till then, said in a quiet voice that she didn't mind coming with us and translating. One kindness for another. As we walked up and down hallways, into and out of homes, I met women

who had survived refugee camps, attacks from foreign soldiers, who through tears spoke of the children they left behind, of the fears of being in a new country, of just surviving the day to day. It brought me back to when I first moved to Canada 20 years ago. I was fortunate that my parents spoke English, that I came from Europe rather than a refugee camp in Africa, but I still experienced those fears of the

unknown, of not fitting in. It all seems so small in comparison, because these families experience that ten fold. They are haunted by memories of sleeping in open air tents in sub-Saharan Africa, of violence and no food, and yet somehow all I could feel was such an overwhelming respect for their triumph against all the odds. They faced horrific living



conditions, and they survived. I wasn't sure I would have been able to.

By the grace of Allah SWT, I never faced those hardships, but I choose to believe that's because Allah SWT gave to me for me to give to others. It is not easy for people to ask for help, but the onus is on us, those that have been blessed far beyond our needs to give hope, faith, love and attention to people who need it. I urge people to donate money, food, and clothing to charities like Fiyasbiylillah (FCAO). Most importantly, though, I urge you to donate your time because just a few hours can change your entire perspective on life and people. In just one afternoon I learned that poverty, pain and suffering is not always visible to the naked eye and can be as close to you as your neighbour. It is through the smallest of actions of compassion and faith that we can provide healing and solace to those who have far less than us. It is the way of humanity, it is the way of our faith, and it is the way of Allah SWT.

Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization completed its 2010/2011 International Project in partnership with PEARL. Raising \$50,000 for the implementation and maintenance of a maternity ward in the Kunduz Province of Afghanistan. There were three phases to the project:

Phase 1: Cost: \$18 000

Delivery room equipment cost and staff (doctors, midwives, guards, and cleaning personnel) salaries for 1st year

Phase 2: Cost: \$15 000

Purchase of the 1st year Administrative costs and medical supplies (Building rental, medicine, utilities, etc)

Phase 3: Cost: \$17 000

Training of women to become midwives and in doing so educate others in proper prenatal care.

For more information please check the video link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7jwNoQXs>



RECIPE BOX

MINI CHEESECAKES

Submitted by Farida Patel

Makes 2 dozen

Ingredients:

- 3 PKG Cream Cheese
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar

Ingredients for Base:

- 1 1/2 cups Oreo cookie crumbs
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup sugar

Decoration:

- Whipped cream
- Raspberry jam

Mix the 3 base ingredients together. Pat a tablespoon of base mixture into a line muffin tin. Cream (beat), cream cheese and sugar. Add eggs one at a time and beat well. Spoon cream cheese mix in the prepared muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for approx. 10-15 minutes. Cool completely. Remove from pan. Spoon a teaspoon of jam in centre and decorate with whipped cream. Refrigerate.

TIP:

If cream cheese and eggs are at room temperature it creams easier.



SPIRIT OF DEEN

S. Abdus-Samad

My moment of insightful, religious connection to Allah SWT has been the greatest in my life during the Summer of 2011 when, by the grace of Allah (SWT), my family went to Saudi Arabia for Umrah during Ramadan and I was blessed with the opportunity to go with them. Now, I've been to Makkah and Madinah before so the crush of people, the sights and sounds, the beauty and serenity of the holiest of Masjids - they were already familiar to me. However, during this past summer it was an entirely different experience.

Fiysabylillah means "In The Way of Allah" as can be seen in this particular case of my going for Umrah last summer; the biggest sacrifice being the trip itself. For the cost of only my ticket, my dad could have bought me the cute Volkswagen Beetle I've always wanted. Instead, he spent his hard earned money on something that will benefit me eternally in the Akira. By the grace and blessings of Allah SWT he chose to take me to Saudi Arabia for the betterment of my soul, ultimately bringing me closer to my final destination - Jannah. Everything we do in our daily lives should be in the way of Allah SWT. But also keep this in mind. Not only should we devote our time and effort to the big things, such as



going for Umrah in Ramadan. We should also spend some time and effort in the smaller things, such as in the way we treat people from day to day; all with the purpose of bringing us closer to Allah SWT.

This trip will undoubtedly be in my memories and heart forevermore, as there are some images and feelings that have engraved themselves into my soul. Each day was a struggle. For example, fasting in fifty degrees Celsius every day was not a joke. However, it was there in the Prophet's Masjid in Madinah, where I joined millions of my brothers and sisters in breaking our fasts at Maghrib, that I truly took in the splendour and majesty of my religion; nay, my way of life. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "The one who fasts has two occasions of joy, one when he breaks the fast, he is glad with the breaking of fast, and one when he meets his Rabb, he is glad with his fast" (Sahih Muslim). This resonated in my mind as I sat there between an engineer from Malaysia and a taxi driver from Sudan. Surrounded by people as far as the eye can see and with only a single goal in mind, I reveled in the realization that we were all Muslims and the happiness and relief of eating a date or drinking Zamzam water was shared by everyone around me in the united spirit of deen. Yes, it was in the blistering heat of the desert sun that I truly found a deep appreciation for my religion.

Prophet Mohammed PBUH said: "The person who comes on pilgrimage to the house of Allah, then neither commits an indecent act, nor indulges in any disobedience to Allah, he will return home as pure (of sins) as he was on the day his mother bore him" (Bukhari, Muslim).

Checks and Balances

Rafia Hooseinny

"Checks and Balances"

*A modern age obsession.
A staple of democracy.
A new way of governing.
A victory for freedom.*

"Checks and Balances"

*They say it keeps us safe.
They say it keeps us fair.
They say it keeps us just.
They say it keeps us free.*

"Checks and Balances"

*They say...They say...
But who's really checked?*

*And what's being balanced?
When the rich get richer?
And the poor get poorer?*

Checks and Balances

*Isn't as they say.
Empty words on paper
Meant to veil the truth
And cover the corrupt.*

Checks and Balances

*Should protect the poor,
Hold the rich accountable,
Balance the power of all,
Encourage peace and unity.*

Checks and Balances

*Is like the command of Allah
To give to the poor,
Treat the orphan with justice
And the elderly with mercy.*



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