



# Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

# Newsletter

2008

السلام عليكم

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

## Message from the Executive Committee

Alhamdulillah, Fiysabiylillah has achieved quite a lot in the year 2007. By the permission of Almighty Allah, it is amazing what a handful of committed members and volunteers can do to affect change in a person, in a family, and in a community as a whole. We continue to provide services here at home as well as expanding our efforts globally. In 2007 we were involved in international projects in Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, Syria, Pakistan, and Guyana, and we look forward to continuing this initiative in other countries where there is a need.

We all see a part of ourselves in the people we strive to help, and we must realize it is only with Allah's (SWT) bounty that we are the givers instead of the receivers. No one knows what Allah (SWT) has planned for us, and at any moment we may be the ones in need of compassion, kindness, and generosity. Fiysabiylillah continues to propagate the responsibility of each individual to share their wealth, time, and heart with those less fortunate, for it is only by Allah's (SWT) grace that we have these blessings. We welcome new sisters that are committed to helping us and we encourage the energy, passion, and cultural diversity they may bring to our organization.

"What actions are most excellent? To gladden the heart of human beings, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful, and to remove the sufferings of the injured."  
(Bukhari)

If you like what Fiysabiylillah is doing and would like to join our organization or propose a project that will aid needy persons in your homeland, we would love to hear from you.—Just send us an email at [fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com](mailto:fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com)

## In the Midst of Pain: A believer's story

-Sister Kauthar Khan

Assalam-alaikum

There was a period in my life when for a long time I was full of pain...I was broken... I was afraid that my life would soon end. I wanted to fulfill my duty to Allah, not live in fear. But the Physical pain was eating at me inside. I could not erase the awful images, or the frightening memories.

Then one day I was forced to do something which I never wanted to do...It escaped like an explosion that had haunted me for all these years.

I am a Muslim and I believe in all the messengers and the angels. I was blessed by Allah that I suffered, so that I could become the strong individual that I am today.

I have learnt that there is light even in the darkest places. When I felt as if I could no

*When the world pushes you to your knees,  
you are in the perfect position to pray.*

longer rely on other people, a Sister and her husband from Fiysabiylillah arrived at my door, like angels. Fiysabiylillah helped me so much emotionally, and financially. They provided me with groceries and transportation...they were my family when I had nobody else...there are no words to express all that they did for me...I feel lonely no longer for they are here!

**We all fall to the floor at some point,  
It's how you pick yourself up. That's  
the real challenge.**

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### 2008 Upcoming

#### Activities

- Summer BBQ & Bazaar
- Eid Hamper Project -local/int'l (September)
- Fundraising Dinner & Auction (October)
- Children's Eid Party (December)
- Orphan Sponsorship

International Project Applications  
DUE: July 31st, 2008

Contact Sr. Fozia for a submission  
form at [fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com](mailto:fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com)

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# Unfolding the Rose

*Anonymous*

A young, new ustadh was walking with an older, more seasoned ustadh in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what Allah had for him to do, he was asking the older ustadh for some advice. The older ustadh walked up to a rosebush and handed the young ustadh a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals. The young ustadh looked in disbelief at the older ustadh and was trying to figure out what the rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of Allah for his life and ministry. Because of his great respect for the older ustadh, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do. Noticing the younger ustadh's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older ustadh began to recite the following poem.

It is only a tiny rosebud,  
A flower of Allah's design:  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding the flower  
Is not known to such as I  
Allah opens this flower so sweetly,  
Then in my hands they die

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,  
This flower of Allah's design,  
Then how can I have the wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Allah for leading  
Each moment of my day.  
I will look to Allah for His guidance  
Each step of the way.

The pathway that lies before me,  
Only Allah knows.  
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,  
Just as He unfolds the rose.

*In 2007 Fiyasabiylillah distributed over 200 Ramadhan and Eid Food Hampers locally in the GTA. Internationally Fiyasabiylillah also sponsored Food Hampers in Syria, Guyana, Nigeria, Zambia, and Kenya during the month of Ramadan. Fiyasabiylillah would like to thank all our Local & International partners, Jazakallahul Khair .*

# Celebration of sharing

*- Faizah Aiyas*



On December 22, mother's and children came together at Nugget Mosque (Islamic Foundation) to celebrate one of our Islamic festivals, Eid-al-adha. It was a wonderful afternoon with fun-filled activities for children, ranging from musical chairs to colouring and even cookie decorations! There was a treasure corner with clothes, Islamic books and toys. Families could choose from these treasures. Mother's also had a chance to participate in the Henna Competition where the best henna design was awarded with henna cones. Children were told the story of Abraham (may the peace and blessings of God be upon him) and his willingness to sacrifice the thing which he most loved for the sake of the Almighty Allah. At the end of the day everyone enjoyed the delicious dinner which included Popeyes chicken, fries and biscuits, and chicken biryani. And who can forget the chocolate and vanilla ice cream for dessert! Goody bags were given to children as a final gift. This get together provided a wonderful opportunity to meet people, make new friends and celebrate our festival. The efforts that the volunteers and members of Fiyasabiylillah put into this celebration are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank all those in the community who shared the meat from their sacrifices with Fiyasabiylillah for distribution.

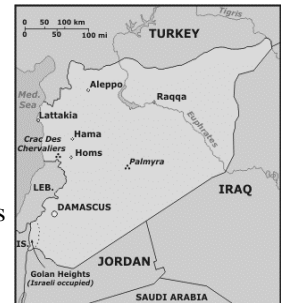
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\* "O you who believe! seek assistance through patience and prayer; surely \*  
\* Allah is with the patient. (Holy Quran 2.153 )" \*  
\* \*\*\*\*\*



# Without Borders- A tale of compassion

*- Asia Maktabi*

Since the war started in Iraq many people have fled to neighbouring countries. So far approximately 4 million people have taken refuge in Syria, Egypt and Jordan. Most of these people are women and children, many of whom are widows and orphans. Some of them are very sick while others have lost limbs and body parts as a result of the war. The local governments are providing help, but despite this, it is not easy living in a strange country. The life these refugees live is very difficult.



Alhamdulillah with the help of our organization, Fiyasabiylillah, more than 40 families who fled Iraq to Syria were provided with special Ramadhan hampers. These hampers contained basic food items such as rice, sugar, flour etc. Although these basic necessities may seem small to us, the joy expressed by the families who received these gifts shows how important they really are.

If you had the chance to witness the kind of life the people live here, you would thank God day and night for the safety and peace that Allah has granted us here in Canada. Please Sisters and Brothers, it is our duty to remember those Muslims who are suffering around the world, and to pray that Allah helps them and grants them victory over their oppressors.

# Raising the Roof for a Great Cause

*-Summayah Abdus-Sammad*



On Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Fiysabiylillah held a fundraising dinner at the West Shore Community Centre in Pickering, Ontario. Alhamdulillah, over 150 people attended this extraordinary event. The main attraction of the day was the fashion show that was organized by members and volunteers of Fiysabiylillah. This fashion show introduced many different cultural outfits from

around the world, and displayed how Muslim women can dress Islamically and fashionably at the same time. All of the tables were set with beautiful centre pieces that were made from, believe it or not, Fiysabiylillah collection cans! These cans were then given to the guests to take home so that they could be filled.

The purpose of this fundraising dinner was to raise money for the Nigerian Education Project, which costs approximately 13 000 USD. The education project involves the building of a school in the small village of Iquata, Nigeria. There are three phases to the project. The first phase is the building of the school. The second phase is the interior finishing's, including windows and furniture. And the third and final phase is the ongoing financial support needed to employ qualified teachers and instructors. To date Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 is currently underway with \$12, 000 USD already raised.

All in all it was an awesome afternoon filled with lots of fun and delicious food. We'd like to send our greatest thanks to all those who helped plan and arrange this event, as well as to those who attended and contributed to this worthy cause.



The first Annual Fiysabiylillah Fundraising Gala Dinner was a wonderful event with great entertainment and a feast for the eyes. A women's only event which we hope to continue on an annual basis in support of one of our sustainable projects internationally. For anyone interested in volunteering with this year's Fundraising Dinner & Auction anticipated for Fall 2008 please contact Sr. Nafeeza at [fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com](mailto:fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com)



## The voice of a Muslim youth

*-Zainab Yakub*

My name is Zainab Yakub. I am 10 years old and was born in Canada. My parents are from Kenya and my mom is an active member of Fiysabiylillah. Two years ago my friend told me that there was a drought in North Eastern Province Kenya. My friends and I tried to help them by raising money using a Fiysabiylillah collection can. The Fiysabiylillah organization started the Kenya Water Tank project in 2006. This project provided water tanks that were used to store drinkable water in the remote districts of northeastern Kenya.

My mom and I went to Kenya in January 2007. While I was there, I met the President of the Ummah Foundation, a man by the name of Zul Nimji. He and I became good friends and he asked me to tell my story. My Uncle and Aunt live in Nairobi, Kenya, and they took me to give a presentation of our efforts in three Islamic schools, broadcast on the radio and even come on T.V! In two of the schools when I told my story, all the students and the teachers rushed to give a helping hand, and we made over one hundred dollars!

At first I was nervous, but then I realized that people always go on TV and radio, and they are not scared, so I shouldn't be either. There is a first time for everything. My Mom told me that a Muslim should always be strong. When I saw myself on TV afterwards, and heard myself on the radio, I felt that I could do anything. When you do something for the sake of Allah you should never be scared because you know that Allah is with you.

I got a chance to see poverty in Kenya and I realized that Allah has blessed me to live in a country like Canada. I am also thankful that Almighty Allah has given me the opportunity to help those in need. I have learnt that as a Muslim we should...

**LEARN, PRACTICE, PREACH and STRIVE IN THE PATH OF ALLAH.**

We can all join hands and help **FIYSABIYLILLAH.**

To date Fiysabiylillah has financed the installation of ten water tanks in North Kenya. This was made possible with the kind co-operation of the Ummah Foundation of Nairobi who supervised and installed the water tanks. One water tank is located in City Park, Nairobi and the remaining nine are located in and around Garissa Town, North Eastern Province, Kenya.

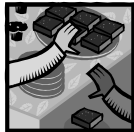


## RECIPE BOX



### Farida's Fabuloso Brownies

- Mix the following three ingredients:  
2 cups flour  
2 cups sugar  
½ tsp salt
  - Bring to boil the following three ingredients. Pour over the flour mixture and blend together.  
1 cup water  
1 cup margarine / butter  
5 tbsps cocoa
  - Mix the next five ingredients together. Add this mixture to the flour mixture.  
½ cup milk  
2 tbsps vinegar
- 2 eggs beaten  
2 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp vanilla
- Pour into greased baking sheet and bake for 20min. at 400°F
  - Cool and spread with warm icing
  - Icing- Bring to a boil the following ingredients and add to ¾ cups icing sugar, ½ cup margarine, 4 tbsps cocoa, 5tbs milk, 1tsp vanilla



Makes 24 squares. Enjoy!

### 2008 Elected Board Members

President - Fozia Hooseinny  
Vice Pres. - Nafeeza Hooseinny  
Treasurer - Asifa Yakub  
Secretary - Hawa Sardar

### Regional Coordinators:

Whitby/Oshawa Area - Najma Ghauri  
Ajax - Asifa Yakub  
Pickering/Toronto - Zaida Khan



**FIYSABIYLLAH**  
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*Helping Those in Need!*

"Travel through the earth and see what was the end of those who rejected Truth."

The Holy Quran  
6:11

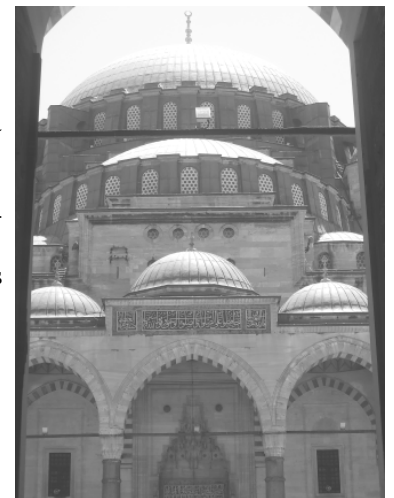


## An Exotic Land: Excerpts from a travellers log

- Nafeeza Hooseinny

The sun is setting over this exotic land with its minaret dotted landscape. The sweet sound of the Maghrib adhaan fills the air. It is a land of convergence where Europe meets Asia. This land filled with a diversity of cultures and flavours that fill the senses with the intoxication of adventure. Istanbul is the centre of it all. The people here thrive off the flood of tourists that flock to this city. With its grand Ottoman architecture and towering mosques, it makes you proud of the Islamic heritage and artwork you are testament to. But what is truly extraordinary is how even the smaller mosques can take your breath away. The best place to seek solitude in this city of grand bazaars and bustling people is to spend time within the glorious mosques, undoubtedly a rewarding experience. Once inside, the fact that you cannot speak the native tongue is of no matter as you are no longer a foreigner. You pray, say salaam, and smile, you realize you have a friend in these people because you are now one.

The ferry blows its whistle as the last boat of the day ends the bustling commute from city to city across the Bosphorous strait. As a steady calmness overcomes the city, a rush of fragrant aromas assault your senses. Food in Turkiye was a wonderful experience, but no matter what you call it, obergene, bygan, or eggplant, it still tastes the same, and I must say I do not feel endeared to the Turkish love affair with this vegetable. Luckily there was a diversity of food to tempt your palate, including fresh local grilled fish and bread, cooked on the wharf for the adventurous. The people were kind and treated us with respect and friendliness as they recognized we were Muslims. In a country where they are fighting for women's rights to wear a Hijab in their Universities, I realize how lucky I am to be respected for my religious practices in a non-Islamic country such as Canada. Turkiye is a country that is on the precipice of its people reawakening to Islam. For many years they looked at the attainment of Western society as the epitome of modernization. Now it seems they are slowly realizing that what the teachings of Islam brought to humanity were indeed modern and liberating.



For any questions/suggestions regarding this newsletter please email [fiysabiylallah@hotmail.com](mailto:fiysabiylallah@hotmail.com)