



## Mohammed Jama leads MAC again

Elections into Management positions in the Muslim Association of Canterbury (MAC) took place on Sunday 22nd August 2010. The elections that started at 9am, according to observers, were the most keenly contested in the history of MAC. Voter turnout was very high. Even though ques were very long the elections were very orderly and conducted by an electoral panel headed by the Imam of Masjid An Nur Dr Hisham El-Zeiny.



**Officials count vote in the MAC elections**

In announcing the results of the elections Dr Elzeiny advised that the newly elected Management is only saddled with a responsibility for leadership but every member of the community is required and obligated to assist in ensuring that MAC becomes a progressive, united and stable community.

In his brief acceptance speech Mohamed Jama congratulated the community for its participation as well as for the trust in the new management. Mohamed Jama also invited the

community to join the new team in serving the mosque.

Results of the elections were announced in the evening at the mosque as follows:

1. Mohammed Abdi Jama-123 Votes
2. Talib Johnson-64 Votes
3. Ilyas Ahmed-1 Vote
4. Ibrahim Abdul Halim-0 Votes
5. Hussein Bin Yunus-0 Votes

Thus Mohammed Jama is declared



**Abdi Jama**

elected as Executive Committee members. These are:

1. Mohammed Hassan
2. Hamza Hartnel
3. Arshad
4. Dr Husaini
5. Ilyas Ahmed

Dr Meysoun Salama and Mrs Dahabo Muse were elected Women Co-ordinators.

### *Eid message from FIANZ President Dr Anwar-ul Ghani*

All praises be to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala for his infinite mercy and immeasurable blessings to all of us to celebrate yet another Eid together as one community in an environment which is peaceful and harmonious. Eid is a thanksgiving day, a day of remembrance, a day of celebration of successful graduation for attaining greater piety, a day for thanking Allah for his infinite favours.

On behalf of FIANZ, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone "Eid Mubarak". "Kullu Aamathum Bi Khair" "Eid Wanaagsan", Salamat Hari Raya and Zahir Batin Maaf".

We devoted with sincerity, dedication and above all, piousness, to observe fasting in the month of Ramadhan. The month was so special that Muslims all over the world



observed it with sanctity and the reverence it deserved.

Ramadhan taught us to be compassionate and charitable and for us to exercise tolerance and to be forgiving to our families and friends. Ramadhan also strengthened our faith and gave us the much needed impetus to perform more good deeds of social responsibility at the same time expressing our gratitude to Allah Almighty.

I was very pleased to note that during the month of Ramadhan, our community clearly demonstrated the spirit of compassion when they came together to give a significant helping hand to our less fortunate brethren in Pakistan who are gravely affected by the devastating flood and the Gazans who have been intensely suffering under

**Continued on page 2**

## ***Eid message from FIANZ President ...***

**Continued from page 1**

siege. The enthusiasm of our community in coming forward to help was just amazing. Almighty Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala promised His mercy, forgiveness and the saving from hellfire to all Muslims as a reward for fasting in Ramadhan and performing good deeds.

Our acts of charity and compassion should go beyond the holy month of Ramadhan. This is the true Islamic spirit by which we radiate blessings to all humanity. Let us use the occasion of Eid to spread peace, compassion and friendship to our relatives, neighbours and friends.

Eid'ul Fitr is the culmination of devotion, sacrifice and sharing with one another. This is an occasion to offer our gratitude to Allah Almighty for bestowing His blessings on us and to seek forgiveness from Him. It is also an auspicious day for us to

forgive the shortcomings of our family members and friends and strengthen our bonds.

In New Zealand, we are fortunate that as a minority group, Muslims can celebrate the Eid'ul Fitr with family and friends in the climate of peace and tranquility. Let us use our triumph of Ramadhan to strengthen our resolve to be good example of a united community that steadfastly upholds the Islamic faith, yet is progressive, adaptive and inclusive.

Let us seek Allah Almighty's guidance to lead us on the right path, the path of peace and brotherhood. A'meen.

Wassalam

Dr Anwar Ghani MNZM JP

## ***The Quran on fasting***

"O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become Al-Muttaqun (the pious).

(Fasting) for a fixed number of days, but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the same number (should be made up) from other days. And as for those who can fast with difficulty, (i.e. an old man, etc.), they have (a choice either to fast or) to feed a poor person (for every day). But whoever does good of his own accord, it is better for him. And that you fast, it is better for you if only you know." (2:183-84)

"The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Quran, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadan), he must fast that month, and whoever is ill or on a journey, the same number (of days which one did not fast must be made up) from other days.

Allah intends for you ease, and He does not want

to make things difficult for you. (He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allah for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him" (2: 185).

"It is made lawful for you to have sexual relations with your wives on the night of the fasts. They are garments for you and you are the same for them. Allah knows that you used to deceive yourselves, so He turned to you and forgave you. So now have sexual relations with them and seek that which Allah has ordained for you, and eat and drink until the white thread (light) of dawn appears to you distinct from the black thread (darkness of night), then complete your fast till the nightfall.

And do not have sexual relations with them (your wives) while you are in Itikaf in the mosques. These are the limits (set) by Allah, so approach them not. Thus does Allah make clear His signs to mankind that they may become Al-Muttaqun (the pious)" (2:187).

## ***The Hadith on fasting***

Abu Huraira related that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: Whoever fasts during Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven. Whoever prays during the nights in Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven. And he who passes Lailat al-Qadr in prayer with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven (Bukhari, Muslim).

Abu Huraira related that Rasulullah said: If anyone omits his fast even for one day in Ramadan without a concession or without being ill, then if he were to fast for the rest of his life he could not make up for it (Bukhari).

Abu Huraira related that the Prophet said: Allah the Majestic and Exalted said: "Every deed of man will

receive ten to 700 times reward, except Siyam (fasting), for it is for Me and I shall reward it (as I like). There are two occasions of joy for one who fasts: one when he breaks the fast and the other when he will meet his Lord" (Muslim).

Abu Huraira related that Rasulullah said: Many people who fast get nothing from their fast except hunger and thirst, and many people who pray at night get nothing from it except wakefulness (Darimi).

### **When to start fasting**

Ibn Umar related that the Prophet said: Do not start fasting unless you see the new moon, and do not end fasting until you see it. If the weather is cloudy then calculate when it should appear (Bukhari, Muslim).



# Ramadan in the Manawatu

This year, the start of Ramadan began with the moon being first sighted here in the Manawatu and most likely in New Zealand by one of our community members high on Poulsen Hill. A clear cold night ensured that there would be no mistaking the moon's appearance if it was going to be observed on this occasion.

One of the key features of Ramadan has been the community Iftar held at the Islamic Centre followed by Taraweh prayers later in the evening. Individuals and communities have all volunteered to delight us all with their amazing foods with a number of communities that did not participate last year all volunteering to play a part in this most Holy of months.



day he arrived along with meeting many members of the community.

## Iftar at Majid Al Mustafa

Allahamdullilah, once again SAMA has organised Iftar at Majid Al Mustafa. 300 to 500 brothers and sisters partake in Iftar. Mufti Siddiqui is leading our

Taraweh prayers and Insaha ALLAH we will complete the Quran on night of Lailatul Qadar. Around 800 to 1000 brothers and sisters come for Taraweh prayers. In order to maximise the benefit of this Holy Month of Ramadhan. SAMA is having daily programmes at the Masjid between Asr and Magrib. Also, on Sunday nights after Magrib, a Youth Quiz



Another milestone for the community has been the arrival of a new Imam. Sheikh Mohammed Sani Thani arrived a little after the start of Ramadan and began work the same

competition is hosted. Sisters have their Quran reading lessons after Magrib and on Sundays from 2 to 4pm.

## Breaking the fast in Christchurch

One of the beauties of Ramadan is the culture of sharing that it re-invigorates in Muslims. It is a month that perfects all the lessons of Islam ie dedication, empathy, modesty, unity etc. Yet all these are for the ultimate purpose of acquiring piety.

Christchurch in the month of Ramadan is not different from most other Muslim centers in New Zealand as Muslims increase their dedication in religious worship and practices. One of these practices is the breaking of the fast (iftar) at sunset. Daily iftar takes place throughout the month of Ramadan in both the University of Canterbury Musallah and Masjid An-Nur. At Masjid An Nur between 80-120 Muslims break their fast daily and enjoy the special brotherhood that is cultivated in this noble month.



# How to achieve lasting happiness

*Excerpt from a Friday Khutbah at Hamilton Mosque*

**By Mustafa Farouk, Chair FIANZ National Dawah and Outreach**

Happiness is the ultimate goal in this life and in the hereafter. We all think we know what will make us happy; however, the happiness we end up experiencing is temporary. So how can we enjoy a lasting happiness?

Islam teaches the following in order for mankind to achieve happiness and wellbeing:

1. To appreciate that God is the creator of everything including our emotions/feelings, and to submit to Him completely (Quran 39:62; 53:43, 48; 6:17).
2. To know that our life has a purpose, that we are created to worship God (Quran 51:56). Not knowing the purpose of existence is a great psychological burden on many people today.
3. To constantly remember (Zikr) God in everything we do and all times (Quran 12:28).
4. To be moderate and balanced in everything we do and to avoid extremism (2:143).
5. To always do our best in everything, depend on Allah, and be contented/satisfied with the outcomes no matter what they are (Quran 33:3; 65:2-3).
6. To be always hopeful for the mercy of Allah and that things will turnout right with Allah's help (Quran 39:53).
7. To emotionally interact with others and not to live in isolation; to love and receive love in return. We should marry, raise a family if possible, keep in touch with family members and friends and join congregational prayers regularly ((12:8; 9:24; 12:30; 2:216; 30:21; 41:17).
8. To show gratitude to Allah first and for all favours received from our fellow human beings whether big or small (Quran 14:7). To reciprocate kindness with a better one and to help others in need (Quran 4:36).
9. To be contemplative and interested in our surroundings (Quran 3:191).
10. To have patience under adversity (Quran 2:153).
11. To try and avoid debt as much as we can and to live according to our means (The Prophet SAW did not use to pray for a person who died indebted).

The subject of happiness has recently been receiving much attention by scholars in various fields of studies. For instance, psychologists are now advocating what they term 'Positive psychology' in focusing on promoting mental health rather than treating mental illness. In the last 5 years the happiness index of nations

have been published and widely discussed in the media. Outcomes from these endeavours support what Islam taught us about how to be happy in these ways:

- From 2000 – 2002 about 1000 scholarly articles were published on the relationship between religion and mental health and all these studies found that religious people are less anxious, less depressed, less suicidal and better able to cope with crisis. In short religious people are happier than their non-religious counterparts.
- Happiness is associated with multiple benefits: better health, increased cognitive flexibility, creativity and self control.
- Money does not bring happiness to an individual.
- Economic growth does not bring happiness to a society.
- Happiness is a stochastic phenomenon.
- Gratitude is associated with greater happiness.
- Strong ties to family and friends produce very high level of happiness.
- Getting involved in a favourite pursuit or creative activity increase happiness or 'flow'.
- Using personal strength to serve some larger end increases happiness.
- Sharing good news increase the positive emotions associated with it.
- Obtaining an outcome that is good enough rather than the maximum or best achievable (satisficing) increase happiness
- Cultivating five strengths (hope, vitality, gratitude, curiosity and love) have been found to be most closely related to happiness.

“

***The subject of happiness has recently been receiving much attention by scholars in various fields of studies. For instance, psychologists are now advocating what they term 'Positive psychology' in focusing on promoting mental health rather than treating mental illness”.***

From the above findings, we can learn that our happiness lies in following the commandments of Allah and the practice of the prophet (SAW). Islam or religion cannot be the cause of unhappiness as some are inclined to believe; if anything it is the lack of strong faith that is the cause of unhappiness. Who, better than Allah our Creator, is in a position to know what will make us happy?

## References

1. Quran. Yusuf Ali translation and commentary.
2. Editorial (2006). Perspectives in Psychiatric Care Vol. 42 (1), 1-2.
3. Lucas, R.E (2007). Social and Personality Psychology Compass 1/1 (2007): 168–182, 10.1111/j.1751-9004.2007.00009.x.



# Stories to share with the family

The Avondale-Hamilton Youth Winter Camp took place recently in Hamilton. One of the topics discussed at one of the camp's gatherings on July 10, 2010 at the Hamilton mosque was how to raise a strong Muslim youth who is proud of his Islamic religion and country New Zealand. Mustafa Farouk, the Chairman of FIANZ National Dawah addressed the topic. According to Farouk, three qualities are required in a youth to be a strong Muslim: (1) strong sense of Islamic identity; (2) unshakable belief and conviction in Islamic teachings; and (3) hard work, confidence, tenacity and a "will do" attitude. As the audience were mostly youth below the age of 12, Farouk used stories and pictures to illustrate the three qualities. FIANZ Muslim News will bring to its readers the three stories in three editions for parents to share with their children. The first story we present in the present edition is on the importance of strong Islamic identity.

## The importance of strong Islamic identity

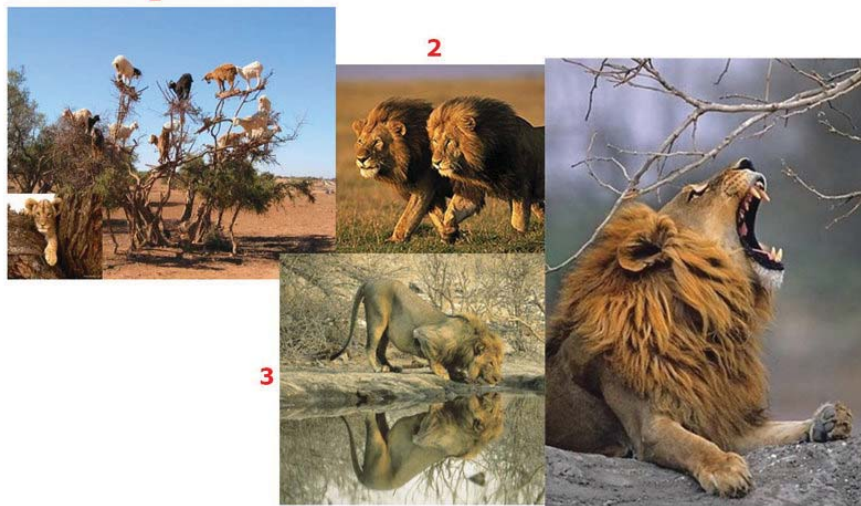
One day a young lion cub got separated from his parents and wandered off in to the African Savannah and got lost. In his wanderings, the little cub came into a herd of goats dwelling at the periphery of a small village. The goats took him in and made him feel welcome. He stayed with them becoming part of the herd and tried to do whatever goats do, particularly the goats kids. After a while the cub completely lost his identity and started thinking of himself as a goat. He forgot about meat and became an herbivore eating grass and leafy

vegetables. He never learnt to roar, but rather spent his time crying like a goat, which often made the goat kids laugh at him.

Although he was happy with his goat family and tried hard to do everything they did, once in a while at midday when the goats were resting under trees shaded from the scorching African sun and chewing their cuds, the now youthful lion used to wonder if there was something wrong with him. He asked himself questions such as, 'why don't I enjoying my leafy foods with relish as others', 'how come I am not able to chew the cud', 'why do I

young lion retorted "I am a goat that is why". His response made the older lion laughed and he said, 'how can you the king of the savannah reduce yourself to being a goat?' 'Don't you know you are a lion'? The two argued about identity for a long time until the older lion convinced the young lion to follow him to a watering hole where they could settle the argument once and for all. So off they went to the watering hole and the older lion asked the younger lion to look at his reflection in the water and compare it to the older lion's. When he did he realised he looked exactly like the older lion and became convinced that he was

indeed a lion. The older lion taught him how to roar, eat meat and feel like the king of the savannah. This sudden identity rediscovery enabled the young lion to understand who he was, to feel better about himself and to grow and excel in all the activities lions undertake in their pride. He no longer felt funny about his diet or how he spoke and



Source of pictures: Google Images

cry funny', and many other probing questions that continued to bother him at those rest occasions. When he tried to talk to the Head Buck about his concerns, it was dismissed as just one of those youthful exuberances.

That was until one day a matured lion appeared and all the goats scattered except the youthful lion. He stood looking at this new creature with intense curiosity. The older lion approached him and addressed him in a language different from the goat language, but one to his surprise he could understand perfectly. The older lion asked what the young lion was doing hanging around goats and behaving like one of them? The

things became plain clearer to him. However, the new discovery about his place in the hierarchy of animals in the savannah did not make him forget his friends and goat host family in the village periphery. He continued to visit them whenever he can and maintained an excellent relationship with them. The morale of the story is that we can never be strong New Zealand Muslims until we know what Islam is all about and that we are Muslims first and foremost. This strong identity will help us integrate better, be proud of who we are and enable us be confident, productive and contributing members of the New Zealand society.

# Humanitarian Relief Fund For Pakistan - FIANZ

8 August 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

Assalaam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

I pray to Allah (Subhana Wa Ta'ala) that you all are in the best of health and progressing well in the path of Taqwa.

You are all well aware of reports of the recent unprecedented floods in Pakistan caused by torrential monsoon rains. Reports say that Pakistan has not experienced such a calamitous monsoon rains for more than a century.

Heavy floods have caused the loss of 2,500 lives and displaced more than 4 million people. There have been devastation to crops, livestock and infrastructure affecting the livelihoods of people in various parts of the country.

The Federation has launched a fundraising appeal to raise money to assist in the humanitarian relief effort

of the people affected by the tragedy. Please help people in Pakistan who are facing very tough times. The Federation requests all to donate generously. Appropriate announcement/request should be made at Masajid and Islamic Centres, particularly during Jumah. Donations are to be directed to FIANZ's Appeal Account as detailed hereunder:

Account Number : 020 500 - 0737236 - 06  
Name of Account : FIANZ Appeal Account  
Name of Bank : Bank of New Zealand

The Federation recommends that the Local Associations coordinate the fund raising at regional level and deposit the money raised into the abovementioned account. When depositing the money, please indicate that it is for the Pakistani Relief Fund.

May Allah SWT reward you for your charitable acts.

Jazak ALLAH Khair and Wassalaam

Dr Anwar-ul Ghani

## Two New Zealand Muslim leaders ranked among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world

Anwar Ghani, president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ), and Kireka Whaanga, leader of the Aotearoa Maori Muslim Association have been ranked among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world in the list published by the Royal Islamic Strategic Centre in Jordan.

The top 50 were ranked, with the other 450 (including Dr Ghani and Mr Whaanga) named in 10 categories: scholarly, political, administrative, lineage, preachers, women's issues, youth, philanthropy, development and science.

Both New Zealanders appeared under the administrative category.

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia heads the list as the world's most influential Muslim.

## 'OIC will provide \$10 million assistance for flood victims'

ISLAMABAD: The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will provide \$10 million in initial assistance for flood victims in Pakistan, OIC General Secretary Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu said on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference along with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi after a special session of the OIC, Dr Ihsanoglu said the extensive damages in the wake of unprecedented floods was a test case for the Muslim community and hoped the OIC member states would continue to support their brethren at this time of need.

Dr Ihsanoglu announced that Muslims have pledged nearly \$1 billion. "The pledges came from Muslim states, NGOs, OIC institutions and telethons held in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar," he said. He stressed the need for formulating short and long-term strategies to ensure food security for the floods victims.

He also called upon the international community to come forward and demonstrate more generosity in this hard time. He said rehabilitation of over 20 million affectees was the top priority of the OIC.

To a question, he said a proposal would be discussed in the next OIC summit to set up an emergency fund to face disasters in member states. The OIC chief said the forum had always been supportive of Pakistan in all international forums whether it was the Kashmir issue, terrorism or other issues. He said the Kashmir issue should be resolved as per the UN resolutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Qureshi said the OIC member states had assured Pakistan of their support to help over 20 million flood affectees. He said OIC member states were considering establishing a special fund for this purpose, adding that he was leaving for the Arab countries on the invitation of the Arab League to mobilise more assistance for the flood affectees.--Source: Daily Times