



It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfill the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing.

..... Surah Baqara, Verse 177

... Board Updates ... *by Board of Directors*

Please welcome the new ISNEO Board of Directors and pray for their successful efforts in guiding the future progress of the Islamic center.

President	Br. Raza Khan
Vice President	Br. Noman Rafique
Dir. of Education	Br. Haneezain Ismail
Dir. of Finance	Br. Siddiquee
Secretary	Br. Muhammad Aymen

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... School Updates ... *by Director of Education*

The Sunday school is requesting volunteers and paid staff for the next semester in the following areas – Office help, Administration, Teachers, Aides and Helpers. Please contact Br. Haneezain Ismail or Br. Mohamed Ragheb for further details.

The school graduation ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 18th, 2008 from Noon i.e. 12 PM onwards at the ISNEO Islamic center. All Administration, Teachers, Parents, Students and Volunteers are requested to attend the ceremony. This will include Lunch, Graduation ceremony, Award distributions, Games and Lots of fun.

In our ongoing efforts to expand the academic and social activities of the society, planning is in progress to initiate a program in which our Muslim teens can participate. All interested teenagers and adults are requested to contact Br. Haneezain Ismail (haneezain@msn.com) for suggestions and activities.

... Fundraising Dinner ... by Board of Directors

The annual ISNEO fundraising dinner will be held on Saturday, April 26th, 2008 at the Courtyard Marriott Canton hotel (located near Belden Village Mall) from 6:00 PM onwards. The program includes Inaugural, Keynote speaker, dinner, community updates, school play and fundraising. The goal of the fundraiser is to raise enough money to payoff the last installment for the Islamic center premises and imminent roof repairs. Please purchase your tickets at your earliest convenience or confirm your intention to participate or donate to any board member. Please support your community.

... Website Coming ... by Secretary

Inshallah! A website for the society is in the works. The website will serve as a bulletin board for the society and other useful information pertinent to the society. The URL for the website will be www.isneo.org. Please contact any board member for suggestions regarding the website.

... What Is The Dream Of Your Children ... by Jafar Juma

To every father and mother, who is loving, merciful, and compassionate, who is concerned that their own flesh blood do not become fuel and firewood for a fire whose fuel is men and stones, as Allah the Almighty says:

"Oh you who believe! Save yourselves and your Families from a Fire whose fuel is men and stones, over which are appointed angels stern and severe, Who flinch not from executing the commands they receive from Allah, but do precisely what they are commanded." (Tahrim 66:6)

To every teacher and caller to that which is good:
Know that the wealth of nations is not stored away in the depths of the earth, nor is it merely spread out on the surface. The wealth of nations is not in treasure troves. It is not just in gold and silver. The wealth of nations is more than what many people imagine it to be. The real wealth of nations is the human being. Man, with his faith, his honor, his ability, his values, is the greatest wealth that nations have, and the youth are the most important component of this human wealth.

For this reason it is said: If you would like to know the future of a nation, then know, what is the situation of the youth from that nation? What are the youth occupied with? What are they concerned with? What are their ideals? What are their goals in life? What are they doing? What do they think about? What do they dream of? What do they talk about in their gathering and conversations? Taking Islam as a nation then we can ask ourselves the same questions. What do we think our youths are concerned with? What are their ideals, what are their goals in life? What are they doing? What do they think about? What do they dream of? And what do they talk about in their gatherings? In short, what is the situation of our youth in Islam?

It is crucial to realize that whatever the situation we might think our youth are in parents are the cause to that situation. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) once said that

every child is born on Fitrah (a natural inclination towards Islam). It is his parents who turn him towards Judaism, Christianity or fire-worship. This means that every child is born in a state of pure innocence. It is his social upbringing, the values that his/her parents display that impact and influence his identity.

Parents thus have an enormous responsibility in molding the character of their children. If they build a strong, trusting, and loving relationship with their children before the teenage years, their children will be less likely to go astray.

As with all blessings of Allah, children can be either a joy or a source of grave concern, a blessing or a curse depending on how we mould and guide them. Children can be a source of enormous tranquility and self-fulfillment yet they can become the root of the greatest heartbreak, pain and sorrow. The very child that provides joy and happiness can also produce the greatest hurt and sorrow. Our great dreams for our children could suddenly turn into unimaginable nightmares. One of the most challenging and daunting tasks parents face today is that of developing a meaningful relationship with their children, especially teenagers who often rebel against their society and parents.

According to a recent survey, 20% of children living in western society have not had a 10-minute conversation with a parent in a month. Their conversation is with TV, which acts as their mother, father, baby-sitter, and teacher. By the time they are teens, they have seen an estimated 18000 violent murders on TV. Alcohol, drugs, frequenting of movie houses and rave clubs and illicit sexual activity are but some of the hazards youth encounter in their quest for independence, joy, and adventure.

Teenagers are idealists, they want to change the world, and make it a better place. These are not bad ideals, and it is a great pity that adults have forgotten their own ideals in the rat race of daily life. It is up to the parents to point them in the right direction.

If we get teenagers involved in helping those in need, community projects, participating in Islamic programs and camps and in working for important causes, their zeal could make a tremendous impact on their future and the shape of the world to come.

Youth have great potential. It is up to the parents to show them the way.

... Muslima In Outer Space ... *by the Editor*

Namira Salim is the first-ever Pakistani Woman selected to go for space tour in 2009. She is one of 100 space tourists who will board landmark commercial space flights being offered by Virgin Galactic, which plans to start operations by 2009. Namira, 35, was born in Karachi, but now lives in Dubai and the south of France. She is a poet and an artist. In an interview with Reuters, she said:

"I'm hoping that when the flight happens I can break new ground for Muslim and Pakistani women to enter into fields considered out of bounds for them."

Virgin Galactic is part of British entrepreneur and adventurer Richard Branson's Virgin Group. She was selected last year from 44,000 candidates to become a member of the Virgin Galactic Founders Club. She said her spaceship was being built and training will start by year-end. This is a great honor for Pakistanis worldwide

specially Pakistani and Muslim women. Iranian-born Anousheh Ansari successfully embarked upon a similar endeavor about two years ago in an 11-day space journey.

Being a Muslima does not stop you from dreaming big and achieving it.

... Future Editions ... *by the Editor*

Inshallah! We plan to improve this publication with each new edition. We would like to solicit your participation for making this newsletter worth reading and a cornerstone of educational material for our society. Material we would like to introduce to this publication could be related to medical awareness, lifestyles, academics, finance, community awareness, legal system, general knowledge, women's affairs, youth affairs, free advertising, business links, opinions about ISNEO and the Islamic center and others which are not political in nature or against the law. Needless to say all content is edited before being published.

"Seven days makes one Week. Seven days without prayer makes one Weak."

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Please contact Br. Haneezain Ismail or Br. Muhammed Aymen regarding the Quarterly ISNEO Newsletter