



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 | Issue 5

May 2024 | Shawwal - Dhul Qa'dah, 1445

*"Are the disbelievers not aware that the heavens and the earth used to be joined together and that We ripped them apart."*  
[al-Anbiya', 201:30]

*"Whoever seeks knowledge from the stars is seeking one of the branches of witchcraft."* [Abu Dawud]

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## URGENT APPEAL

IONA is in dire NEED for Funds for Expansion

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## IN SOLIDARITY WITH GAZA

"The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When a limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever."

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First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and the second sermon starts at 1:20 PM



### IONA Food Catering Service

IONA is thrilled to announce the launch of our exclusive catering service

| More on page 2



### How to be Positive in Hard Times

Unfortunately, stressful events are abundant in our lives. People under stress can find themselves falling ...

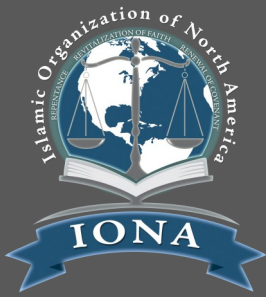
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### Registration is Open NOW

We are accepting students ages 5 to 13 (limited space available.) Monday, July 1st, ends on August 22nd.

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Mustapha Elturk  
Ameer

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## Announcements

### SUMMER SCHOOL 2024

#### Registration is open for IONA's Summer School

- The school begins on Monday, July 1st, and ends on Thursday, August 22nd.
- We are accepting students ages 5 to 13 (limited space available.)
- **Tuition and Fees:**
  - \$450 per child per year plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
  - \$675 for two siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
  - \$950 for three siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
- **School Hours:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- **Subjects Taught:** Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies (Hadith, Sirah, etc.)
- **Dress Code:** Proper Islamic dress is required for both boys and girls. Girls must wear a navy Jilbab and a white scarf and boys must wear navy pants (blue jeans allowed) and white shirts or T-shirts. No shorts allowed.

Registration forms may be obtained from the IONA Center and submitted to the Principal, Sr. Souad Soubra, who is available on Sundays between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the IONA Center. You may also register online at [ionamasjid.org](http://ionamasjid.org)

For more information, please call: **248-872-2169** or e-mail Sr. Souad at [suelturk@gmail.com](mailto:suelturk@gmail.com)

#### IONA's Friday Lunch to Resume on Friday, May 10, in sha Allah.

Visit the IONA Cafe every Friday from 12 PM to 2:30 PM and indulge in our freshly prepared lunch for just \$10.00. Your purchase directly supports the Masjid. Thank you for backing your Masjid!



#### IONA Food Catering Service

IONA is thrilled to announce the launch of our exclusive catering service for substantial orders, perfect for private gatherings and major events like weddings and graduations. Our culinary team, led by experienced commercial chefs, will expertly prepare a delightful selection of Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Indian cuisine.

Enjoy the convenience of having our delectable dishes delivered to your doorstep, whether it's your home, mosque, banquet hall, or any other venue of your choice. Please note that we are currently accepting orders for a minimum of 50 people per order.

All proceeds generated from this catering service will directly contribute to the IONA Masjid. For inquiries or to place your order, please feel free to call us at 248-462-6244.



# An Urgent Appeal from Imam Mustapha

Dear community members,

Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah, our Expansion Project has commenced, but we need your urgent support to bring it to completion.

Our community is facing an urgent financial challenge in completing our Expansion Project. **We are currently facing a shortfall of \$700,000 to realize our vision**, and we humbly seek your support in this crucial endeavor.

Our Expansion Project aims to add 10,000 square feet to our facilities, including a special prayer area dedicated to our sisters. This addition will not only accommodate our growing community but will also provide a safe and welcoming and inclusive space for our sisters and all members to come together, worship, learn, and grow in faith.

Every contribution you make towards this noble cause will count as a perpetual charity (Sadaqah Jariyah), ensuring ongoing blessings for you and your loved ones. Your donation, no matter the amount, will make a significant difference in reaching our fundraising goal and completing this vital project.

Let us come together as a community and share the blessings of giving to support our Expansion Project. By contributing towards this endeavor, you will leave a lasting legacy of faith, unity, and service to future generations.

Please donate generously and help us reach our target. Together, we can make our vision a reality and create a thriving space for worship, education, and community building.

Every penny you contribute brings us closer to our goal. Give for the sake of Allah (SWT).

To donate or learn more about our project, please visit <https://ionamasjid.org/donate> or contact Br. Naveed Ashraf at [director@ionaonline.org](mailto:director@ionaonline.org) or (248) 210-4156.

May Allah reward you abundantly for your generosity and bless you and your families with blessings in this world and the Hereafter.

With sincere gratitude,

Imam Mustapha Elturk



A graphic with an orange background. At the top, it says 'Support IONA Masjid' in white text. Below this is a photograph of the IONA Masjid building, which has a large green dome and minarets. In the foreground, there is a QR code with a blue 'P' logo in the center. Below the QR code, it says 'SCAN ME' in white text. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text: 'By giving your generous contribution to IONA masjid, you can empower the heart of our community, fostering spiritual growth, educational opportunities, and a place of solace for all. Together, let's build a stronger foundation of faith and service. Donate to the masjid today and make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.' followed by a horizontal line.

# Synopsis of Ameer Mustapha's Eid Khutbah

## Standing in Solidarity with Gaza—A Call for Justice, Peace, and Hope

“Say (O Prophet), ‘By the Grace of Allah and His Mercy let them rejoice, it is better than all they accumulate’” (Yunus,10:58)

We, at IONA, extend our warmest congratulations to you, your families, and loved ones on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr. May this Eid be filled with blessings, happiness, and the abundant mercy of Allah (SWT).

During this special time, let us reflect on the spiritual journey we embarked upon throughout Ramadan. We dedicated ourselves to fasting, prayer, and acts of worship, seeking closeness to our Creator. As we celebrate Eid, let us carry forward the spirit of devotion and commitment beyond the blessed month.

Remember, Eid is not just a celebration but also a reminder to continue our journey towards righteousness and piety. Let us strive to maintain the good habits and practices we cultivated during Ramadan, including regular prayers, recitation of the Qur’an, and acts of charity.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate, let us not forget those who are less fortunate, particularly our brothers and sisters in Gaza and other parts of the world facing hardship and adversity. Let our joy be tempered with compassion and solidarity as we remember them in our prayers and extend a helping hand to those in need.

In light of the ongoing genocide unfolding in Gaza and the immense suffering endured by its people, particularly during this blessed occasion of Eid al-Fitr, we urge our Muslim brothers and sisters to remember them and feel their pain and suffering.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) narrates, “The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When a limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever,” thus, we cannot ignore the suffering of our fellow Muslims.

The situation in Gaza demands our immediate attention and action. As members of the global Muslim community, it is our duty to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Gaza and to show our unwavering support for their plight.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza and condemn in the strongest possible terms the ongoing genocide that is taking place there. The loss of tens of thousands of innocent lives, predominantly women and children, along with the systematic destruction of residential buildings, schools, hospitals, churches, and mosques, as well as the forced displacement of Gazans, is a grave injustice that cannot be overlooked.

As the IDF prepares to attack Rafah, the world has witnessed a disturbing wave of ethnic cleansing, genocide, and egregious war crimes in Gaza, leaving a lasting impact on the collective conscience of humanity. The toll is staggering, with nearly 40,000 martyrs mostly children and women, and more than 100,000 injured becoming victims to the devastating force exerted by the Israeli military machinery.

Homes numbering in the hundreds of thousands have been razed to the ground, and essential structures such as mosques,

churches, schools, and public spaces have been obliterated. Even hospitals, meant to serve as sanctuaries for the afflicted, have not been spared, forcing the evacuation of patients from intensive care units.

The two million inhabitants of Gaza endure relentless day and night bombings. The suffering extends beyond the immediate impact of air strikes, tanks, and artillery, reaching a grim climax with intensified starvation.

We urge all members of the community to join us in this critical moment and to demonstrate compassion and solidarity with the people of Gaza.

As members of the global Muslim community, we stand with our brothers and sisters in Gaza against the injustices inflicted upon them.

The following are some ways supporting our brothers and sisters in the Holyland.

- 1) Through prayers: Praying for the people of Gaza is a compassionate and meaningful way to offer support during difficult times. Pray that Allah (SWT) with his might and power brings an end to the war and alleviate the sufferings endured by our brothers and sisters in Gaza and Palestine.
- 2) Through financial contribution: Contribute to reputable humanitarian organizations that provide aid and support to Gaza, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), among other charitable organizations such as Mercy USA and Rahma Worldwide.
- 3) Advocate for Peace: Use your voice to advocate for peaceful resolutions to the conflict in Gaza and support diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of the ongoing humanitarian crisis.
- 4) Raise Awareness: Raise awareness about the situation in Gaza by sharing information, stories, and resources on social media, organizing community events, or writing to elected officials to urge action.
- 5) Foster Solidarity: Show solidarity with the people of Gaza by attending rallies, vigils, or demonstrations, and by standing up against discrimination, injustice, and human rights violations.
- 6) Additionally, staying informed about the situation in Gaza and continuing to support long-term solutions to the underlying issues of the conflict is crucial for creating lasting change and promoting peace and stability in the region.

We call upon the international community to take immediate action to end the violence and oppression in Gaza and to hold those responsible for these atrocities accountable for their actions. Only through collective efforts and unwavering commitment to justice can we hope to bring about meaningful change and ensure a better future for all.

We pray for peace, justice, and prosperity for all. May Allah (SWT) grant relief to the oppressed, alleviate

| Continued on page 6

## How to be Positive in Hard Times - Part 1

We all know that we should be grateful to God for everything, and as believers, we should be certain that whatever happens is ultimately good for us. However, when we are tested -as we inevitably are -, many of us crumble. Why is that? Why are we not able to 'pass' these tests? Many of us after a tragedy become hapless, sad, depressed, angry, or bitter.

The essence lies in knowledge that is beneficial, and the best form of knowledge is that which an individual can apply to their day-to-day life on their own. Here are a few tips to increase your patience in hard times. Like building muscle at the gym, it takes time to exercise this habit, but becomes easier over time:

### Manage Stress:

Unfortunately, stressful events are abundant in our lives. People under stress can find themselves falling into thinking errors. These thinking errors include -but are not limited to -: black and white thinking, mind-reading, self-criticism, negative filtering and catastrophizing. Together this can affect how we perceive reality. Next time you are tempted to make a catastrophe out of a situation, stop and ask yourself two questions:

- Is this really a big deal in the larger scheme of things?
- Are there any positives in this situation?

### Have a Realistic Perspective of Qadr:

Although it is part of our creed to believe in divine destiny, personal responsibility is still of importance and we cannot simply resign ourselves to fate; especially if we have some sort of influence over a situation.

Allah (SWT) says in the Quran, *"For each one are successive [angels] before and behind him who protect him by the decree of Allah. Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. And when Allah intends for a people ill, there is no repelling it. And there is not for them besides Him any patron."* [Al-Ra'd; 13:11]

This puts the responsibility on us to change ourselves. Notice the word, *themselves*. We are not responsible for events beyond our control. These events include the behavior of our spouses, the affinity of our children to the religion, the love in the hearts of people, the weather, the gender of our child (or how many we have), or even the amount of money we will earn in a lifetime -to name a few. Often we become stuck and focus on our conditions, rather than focusing on our own behavior.

### Nourish Positive Thinking:

In order to be able to have a wise and calculated response to life's events, we must learn to interpret these events in a way that assign positive meaning to all. Allah (SWT) is, after all, how we perceive Him to be. Shaytan interferes with this process through *waswasa* (implanting thoughts that are based on

| Continued on page 7



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## YOUTH OF UMMAH PROGRAMS *At a glance*



### Potatoes, Eggs, and Coffee Beans

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He took the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to her, he asked, "What do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer", he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity - the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

Courtesy Islamcan.com

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### Standing in Solidarity with Gaza—A Call for Justice, Peace, and Hope (cont'd)

the suffering of the needy, and shower His mercy upon the entire ummah.

"O Allah, bring peace to the land of Gaza and all areas affected by conflict. Protect the innocent civilians, children, and families who are suffering. Guide the leaders and decision-makers to work towards peace, justice, and reconciliation. Grant strength and resilience to the people of Gaza during these challenging times. Ameen."

"O Allah, alleviate the suffering of the people of Gaza who are facing hardship and adversity. Provide them with food, water, shelter, and medical care. Comfort those who have lost loved ones and grant them patience and solace. Shower your mercy and blessings upon the people of Gaza and grant them relief from their trials. Ameen."

"O Allah, protect the people of Gaza from harm and danger. Shield them from violence, oppression, and injustice. Surround them with your divine light and safeguard their homes, schools, and places of worship. Grant them safety and security, and guide them towards a future of peace and prosperity. Ameen."

"O Allah, unite the hearts of people around the world in support of the people of Gaza. Inspire compassion, empathy, and generosity among individuals and communities to come together and provide aid and assistance to those in need. Strengthen the bonds of humanity and solidarity, and empower us to work towards a world free from conflict and suffering. Ameen."

"O Allah, send your healing mercy upon the wounded and injured in Gaza. Grant them swift recovery and restoration of health. Ease their pain and suffering, both physical and emotional. Bless the hands of the medical workers and caregivers who are providing care and treatment. Bring healing and wholeness to the people of Gaza and grant them strength and resilience. Ameen."

May Allah (SWT) accept our fasting, prayers, and good deeds, and may He (SWT) bless us with joy, prosperity, and guidance in the days ahead. Ameen

## How to be Positive in Hard Times - Part 1 (cont'd)

negativity and falsehood). His goal is for the Muslim to despair in Allah's mercy. The goal is not to be happy; this is unrealistic. The goal for us is to think well of Allah (SWT) as consistently as possible. You may want to try the following:

- Create a list of what you are grateful to Allah (SWT) for daily.
- Remind yourself every day of the positive aspects of situations when your mind falls to default negative thinking.

Self-assessment is good while self-criticism will only encourage you to take full responsibility for negative life events and become depressed, or at the opposite end take no responsibility whatsoever; either mind-set does not help us improve our self.

To be continued.

Amina Malik

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## Support IONA Masjid





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By giving your generous contribution to IONA masjid, you can empower the heart of our community, fostering spiritual growth, educational opportunities, and a place of solace for all. Together, let's build a stronger foundation of faith and service. Donate to the masjid today and make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.

# MAY 2024

## IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqamah Timing

Date	Fajr	Iqamah	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqamah	Asr (S)*	Asr (H)*	Iqamah	Maghrib	Iqamah	Isha	Iqamah
Wed 1	4:47	5:30	6:26	1:34	2:00	5:23	6:27	6:45	8:36	8:41	9:42	10:00
Thu 2	4:46	5:30	6:25	1:34	2:00	5:23	6:28	6:45	8:37	8:42	9:43	10:00
Fri 3	4:44	5:30	6:24	1:34	2:00	5:24	6:28	6:45	8:38	8:43	9:43	10:00
Sat 4	4:42	5:30	6:22	1:34	2:00	5:24	6:29	6:45	8:39	8:44	9:44	10:00
Sun 5	4:41	5:30	6:21	1:34	2:00	5:24	6:30	6:45	8:40	8:45	9:45	10:00
Mon 6	4:40	5:30	6:20	1:34	2:00	5:25	6:30	6:45	8:41	8:46	9:46	10:00
Tue 7	4:38	5:30	6:19	1:34	2:00	5:25	6:31	6:45	8:42	8:47	9:48	10:00
Wed 8	4:37	5:30	6:17	1:34	2:00	5:25	6:32	6:45	8:44	8:49	9:49	10:00
Thu 9	4:35	5:30	6:16	1:34	2:00	5:26	6:32	6:45	8:45	8:50	9:50	10:00
Fri 10	4:34	5:30	6:15	1:34	2:00	5:26	6:33	6:45	8:46	8:51	9:52	10:15
Sat 11	4:32	5:30	6:14	1:34	2:00	5:26	6:33	6:45	8:47	8:52	9:53	10:15
Sun 12	4:31	5:30	6:13	1:34	2:00	5:27	6:34	6:45	8:48	8:53	9:54	10:15
Mon 13	4:30	5:15	6:12	1:34	2:00	5:27	6:35	6:45	8:49	8:54	9:56	10:15
Tue 14	4:28	5:15	6:11	1:34	2:00	5:27	6:35	6:45	8:50	8:55	9:57	10:15
Wed 15	4:27	5:15	6:10	1:34	2:00	5:27	6:36	6:45	8:51	8:56	9:58	10:15
Thu 16	4:26	5:15	6:09	1:34	2:00	5:28	6:36	6:45	8:52	8:57	9:59	10:15
Fri 17	4:25	5:15	6:08	1:34	2:00	5:28	6:37	6:45	8:53	8:58	10:01	10:15
Sat 18	4:23	5:15	6:07	1:34	2:00	5:28	6:38	6:45	8:54	8:59	10:02	10:15
Sun 19	4:22	5:15	6:06	1:34	2:00	5:29	6:38	6:45	8:55	9:00	10:03	10:15
Mon 20	4:21	5:15	6:05	1:34	2:00	5:29	6:39	7:00	8:56	9:01	10:04	10:15
Tue 21	4:20	5:15	6:04	1:34	2:00	5:29	6:39	7:00	8:57	9:02	10:06	10:30
Wed 22	4:19	5:15	6:04	1:34	2:00	5:30	6:40	7:00	8:58	9:03	10:07	10:30
Thu 23	4:18	5:15	6:03	1:34	2:00	5:30	6:40	7:00	8:59	9:04	10:08	10:30
Fri 24	4:17	5:15	6:02	1:34	2:00	5:30	6:41	7:00	9:00	9:05	10:09	10:30
Sat 25	4:16	5:15	6:01	1:34	2:00	5:31	6:42	7:00	9:01	9:06	10:10	10:30
Sun 26	4:15	5:15	6:01	1:34	2:00	5:31	6:42	7:00	9:02	9:07	10:12	10:30
Mon 27	4:14	5:15	6:00	1:34	2:00	5:31	6:43	7:00	9:02	9:07	10:13	10:30
Tue 28	4:13	5:15	5:59	1:35	2:00	5:32	6:43	7:00	9:03	9:08	10:14	10:30
Wed 29	4:12	5:15	5:59	1:35	2:00	5:32	6:44	7:00	9:04	9:09	10:15	10:30
Thu 30	4:12	5:15	5:58	1:35	2:00	5:32	6:44	7:00	9:05	9:10	10:16	10:30
Fri 31	4:11	5:15	5:58	1:35	2:00	5:33	6:45	7:00	9:06	9:11	10:17	10:30
Sat 1	4:10	5:15	5:57	1:35	2:00	5:33	6:45	7:00	9:06	9:11	10:18	10:30

\* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi | Athan is 10 minutes before Iqamah except for Maghrib

First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and second sermon is at 1:20 PM



IONA aims at transforming its members and surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek God's forgiveness to earn His pleasure. IONA members seek His mercy and grace in this life and in the hereafter. They rejuvenate their souls through internal struggle (jihad) and spiritual exercise in worship of the Creator, God most glorified. The strength of their belief in God almighty gives them the courage to promote good and forbid evil, and to engage in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.

