

NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 | Issue 9

September 2025 | Rabi' al-Awwal - Rabi' al-Thani 1447



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

Open Enrollment



Prayer Times _

The Story of Atif______7

Safiyya Bint Huyayy (RAA)

Safiyyah (RA) was known for her deep piety, intelligence, and gentleness. Although she ...



In the Footsteps of the Prophet

While earlier Prophets were sent to specific peoples and nations, Muhammad (壁) was sent as a mercy for ...



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News Release - Famine in Gaza

Since October 2023, at least 303 people – including 117 children – have starved to death in Gaza ...

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Mustapha Elturk Ameer

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Announcements

Reserve a spot for your child(ren). Register Early.

2025 - 2026 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The preschool program is a weekly program, Monday through Thursday, and will begin on **Monday, September 8, 2025,** in sha Allah.

The tuition per child is \$300 per month.

Sr. Souad Soubra, the Sunday and Summer School Principal, has designed a wonderful program for preschoolers. The curriculum includes Personal Development, Literacy Skills, Numbers and Math, and Art in addition to learning Islamic manners, dua's, Memorizing Qur'an, and Arabic. The preschool is the first step to schooling and our goal is to build confidence in the students, get them acquainted with the educational environment, teach them good manners, and help them develop the concepts of sharing and charity. Students will receive a certificate at the end of the year marking their first memorable school year.

Children **ages 3 to 5** from all cultures are welcome. The preschool program is from **9:30 AM** to **12:30 PM**, Monday through Thursday, and the tuition per child is **\$300** with a discount for siblings. For more information, please contact **Sr. Souad** at **248-872-2169 or suelturk@gmail.com**. **Register at https://ionamasjid.org/preschool/**

The school will, in sha Allah, start on **Monday, September 8, 2025** and end on **Thursday, May 28, 2026**. IONA is committed to helping the children with their educational needs. Let us help you develop your child right from the start.

2025 - 2026 SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school begins on **September 14, 2025** in sha Allah and ends on June 14, 2026. We are accepting students ages 5 to 17 (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 are from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Subjects Taught: Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies (Hadith, Sirah, etc.)

For more information, please contact the principal, Sr. Souad, at 248-872-2169 or suelturk@gmail.com

REGISTER ONLINE at IONAMASJID.ORG/Sunday-school/

SIRAH CONFERENCE 2025

SAVE the DATE

Saturday, Sept. 27th, 6-8 PM

REVIVING THE SIRAH:

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD

→ Rediscovering the Prophetic Way for Today's World →

Synopsis of Ameer Mustapha's Khutbah

In the Footsteps of the Prophet (ﷺ)

Scholars are unanimous that the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was born in the year 570 CE. However, the exact date of his birth remains a matter of scholarly debate. The 12th of Rabi al-Awwal is the most widely observed and celebrated date.

In the year 570 CE the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was born. At the age of forty, Allah (﴿) raised him as His final Prophet and Messenger to deliver humanity from the darkness in which it was engulfed. Muhammad (ﷺ) not only illuminated the divinely lit path to success and salvation, but also fulfilled his mission by establishing a community and polity wherein the sovereignty of Allah (﴿) reigned supreme. He left behind a timeless legacy for true believers: to live their lives in his footsteps.

Among his many honorific titles, five are mentioned in Surat al-Aḥzab: "O Prophet! We have sent you as a witness, a bearer of glad tidings, a warner, a caller to Allah by His permission, and a lamp spreading light." [al-Aḥzab, 33:45–46]

While earlier Prophets and Messengers were sent to specific peoples and nations, Muhammad (ﷺ) was sent as a mercy and guide for all humanity until the end of time:

"And We have sent you to all people as a bearer of good news, as well as a warner; but most people do not know." [Saba', 34:28]

This makes it clear that after his blessed demise, the responsibility of carrying forward his mission was entrusted to the Muslim ummah. As he (ﷺ) said: "I am the last in the line of Prophets, and you are the last community of believers."

The Qur'an confirms this role: "You are the best community raised for mankind. You enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and believe in Allah." [Aal 'Imran, 3:110]

Lessons from the Former Ummah

Allah (**\$**) once honored Banu Isra'il with leadership over nations, but because of their transgressions, arrogance, and neglect of His law, their status was revoked: "They are stricken with humiliation wherever they are found... They drew the wrath of Allah and are stricken with misery because they rejected the signs of Allah and killed the prophets without just cause; that is because they disobeyed and transgressed beyond bounds." [Aal 'Imran, 3:112]

This is both a warning and a lesson. If the Muslim ummah were to neglect its divine responsibilities, it too could face the same fate.

The Prophet (ﷺ) as Witness and Warner

Abdullah ibn Masʿud (RAA) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) once asked him to recite the Qur'an. When he reached the ayah, "How will it be then, when We bring from each nation a witness, and We bring you (O Muhammad) as a witness against these people?" [al-Nisāʾ, 4:41] The Prophet (ﷺ) wept, overwhelmed with the weight of responsibility.

Allah (**4**) describes this dual testimony: "Thus, We have made you a justly balanced community so that you may be witnesses over mankind, and the Messenger will be a witness over you." [al-Baqarah, 2:143]

Just as the Prophet (ﷺ) will be a witness over his people, so too will this ummah be witnesses over humanity. This raises sobering questions: Do we feel even a fraction of his deep concern for humanity? Do we realize that failing to convey Islam makes us accountable, while others may testify against us for our negligence?

The Prophet (ﷺ) as Bearer of Glad Tidings and Caller to Allah

As stated in the Qur'an, all Prophets brought both glad tidings for the faithful and warnings for those who rejected the truth [al-Nisā', 4:165]. Muhammad (ﷺ) perfected this balance of mercy and warning. He fulfilled his duty as a *da'i* (caller to Allah), leaving no room for doubt:

"O Messenger, deliver what was revealed to you from your Lord; if you do not, you will not have conveyed His message." [al-Ma'idah, 5:67]

He (ﷺ) and his companions called to Allah with insight:

"Say: This is my way. I call to Allah with insight — I and those who follow me." [Yūsuf, 12:108]

The Qur'an further instructs Muslims to call people wisely:

"Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good preaching, and argue with them in the best manner." [al-Naḥl, 16:125]

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Sisters Corner

Safiyyah Bint Huyayy (RAA): Mother of the Believers

Safiyyah bint Huyayy ibn Akhṭab (RAA), one of the noble wives of the Prophet Muḥammad (ﷺ), occupies a unique place in Islamic history. She was born into the Jewish tribe of Banu Naḍir in Madinah around 610 CE. Her father, Huyayy ibn Akhtab, was a respected leader and scholar among the Jews, and her lineage traced back to Prophet Harun (AS), the brother of Musa (AS). Thus, she inherited both nobility and a strong religious heritage.

During her early life, she was married twice: first to Sallam ibn Mashkam and later to Kinanah ibn al-Rabui'. After the conflict at Khaybar in 7 AH (629 CE), where her husband and father were killed due to their opposition to the Muslims, Safiyyah (RAA) was among those taken captive. When the Prophet (ﷺ) saw her, he treated her with dignity and compassion, recognizing her noble lineage. He gave her the choice between returning to her people or embracing Islam and marrying him. She chose Islam, declaring her faith and becoming the honored wife of the Prophet (ﷺ).

Her marriage symbolized reconciliation between the Muslims and the Jewish community, showing Islam's ability to transcend tribal divisions. By marrying her, the Prophet (ﷺ) not only honored her but also brought healing after the conflict.

Safiyyah (RA) was known for her deep piety, intelligence, and gentleness. Although she initially faced challenges due to her background – sometimes other wives would remind her of her Jewish origins – the Prophet (ﷺ) defended her. Once, when she was called the "daughter of a Jew," she

wept. The Prophet (ﷺ) comforted her, saying, "You are indeed the daughter of a Prophet (Harun), your uncle was a Prophet (Musa), and you are married to a Prophet. So what is there for them to boast about over you?" This statement reflected both her noble ancestry and the Prophet's compassion.

Despite the initial difficulties, Safiyyah (RAA) won the respect of the Prophet's household. She displayed loyalty, humility, and patience. During the Prophet's final illness, she is reported to have said tearfully, "O Messenger of Allah, I wish it were me suffering in your place," a statement showing her sincere love and devotion.

After the Prophet's passing in 11 AH, Safiyyah (RAA) continued to live in Madinah as one of the honored *Ummahat al-Mu'minun* (Mothers of the Believers). She was known for her charitable nature, often giving generously in the way of Allah. During the caliphate of 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭab (RAA), she once gave away her share of wealth to her relatives, demonstrating her enduring compassion and family ties.

Safiyyah (RAA) passed away in either 50 AH or 52 AH (670–672 CE) during the rule of Muʻawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan. She was buried in the famous al-Baqiʻ cemetery in Madinah, alongside many other Mothers of the Believers.

Her life is a testament to faith, resilience, and reconciliation. From the daughter of a Jewish leader to the honored wife of the Prophet (ﷺ), Safiyyah (RA) embraced Islam wholeheartedly and became a symbol of the unity Islam brought across cultures and tribes.

Lily

Kids Corner

The Story of Atif and the Old Man

There was a young boy named Atif. As winter approached, his mother took him to buy some warm winter clothes. They visited a store where Atif saw many colorful coats and was particularly drawn to a thick blue fur coat.

His mother bought the blue coat for him, and he wore it to school the next day, feeling warm and cozy despite the cold and rainy weather.

After school, while heading home in the cold, rainy weather, Atif noticed an old man near the school selling tissues. The old man was shivering from the cold, trying to earn some money for food. Atif felt sorry for the man and thought about how hard it must be for him to work in such harsh conditions just to make a living.

Atif went home and told his mother about the old man. He asked if they had any spare coats that his father didn't need, to give to the old man. His mother appreciated Atif's compassion and gave him two coats she had cleaned and prepared for donation. Atif thanked his mother and quickly ran back to the old man.

Atif handed the coats to the old man, who felt immense happiness and warmth. The old man thanked Atif and prayed for him. Atif then hurried back home, feeling joyful for having helped someone in need.

Continued on page 6

News Release

Famine in Gaza: Humanity Has Failed

[Warren, MI] — The Islamic Organization of North America (IONA) issues this urgent statement on the devastating famine in Gaza, where silence has become complicity and inaction a moral crime.

Since October 2023, at least 303 people—including 117 children—have starved to death in Gaza, according to reports as of August 26, 2025. Behind every statistic is a name, a face, and a life extinguished because the world has failed to uphold the most basic principle of human dignity: the right to food and survival.

Despite overwhelming evidence, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has denied the existence of starvation in Gaza. But the question remains: Who should the world listen to? A leader wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes, or the world's leading humanitarian and food security authorities?

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) — The UN-backed mechanism and the foremost global authority on food crises has officially declared famine in Gaza City. United Nations Agencies — The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly confirmed that famine has already taken hold in Gaza and is rapidly spreading. Human Rights Organizations — Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and B'Tselem have all attested that starvation has been deliberately inflicted, in violation of international humanitarian law.

Israel's Legal and Moral Responsibility: Israel is the occupying power in Gaza — a fact recognized under international law. As such, it bears full legal responsibility for ensuring access to food, water, and medical supplies to the population it occupies. The deliberate obstruction of humanitarian aid and the weaponization of starvation constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A Test of Humanity: "What is happening in Gaza is not just a tragedy – it is a moral collapse of the global conscience. Silence is complicity. We must demand an end to this suffering – now." – Imam Elturk

A Call to Action: The collective cry of people of conscience worldwide is clear - Stop the starvation. End the genocide. End the war.

But moral outrage must translate into political will. The voices of the people must be heeded by the elected officials and world leaders who hold the power to end this catastrophe. The global community cannot claim ignorance. The evidence is irrefutable, the famine undeniable, and the suffering unbearable.

IONA calls on all governments, international bodies, and civil society organizations to demand: 1. An immediate and unconditional ceasefire. 2. The full and unfettered delivery of humanitarian aid. 3. Accountability for violations of international humanitarian law.

History will judge not only those who caused this suffering, but also those who stood by in silence. END



(586) 744-0638

An Urgent Appeal to Our Beloved Community

Dear IONA Community,

Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah (SWT) and your generous support, our Expansion Project is moving forward. We now kindly ask for your renewed support in one of the following ways:

- 1. If you made a pledge but haven't fulfilled it yet, please do so as soon as you can.
- 2. If you've already fulfilled your pledge and are able to give again, please consider donating. This is a Sadaqah Jāriyah a continuous charity with ongoing reward.
- 3. If this would be your first time donating, we warmly invite you to join this noble cause.
- 4. You may also use your zakat toward this project it is zakatable.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever builds a mosque for Allah, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise." [Sahih al-Bukhari & Sahih Muslim]

Our goal is to complete the new 10,000 sq. ft. addition — including the lower level and two upper floors — by November. This will give our growing community more space for worship, especially a dedicated area for our sisters, and create a safe, welcoming place to grow in faith together.

Every donation counts. By giving, you help build a lasting legacy of faith, unity, and service for generations to come.

☐ Please donate today: ionamasjid.org/donate

May Allah accept from you, bless your family, and grant you the highest reward in this life and the next. Ameen.

In the Footsteps of the Prophet (*) ... Cont'd

This highlights the need for different strategies: simple exhortation for the masses, and deep intellectual engagement with elites who shape society's direction. Hence, nurturing Muslim scholars well-versed in both modern disciplines and the Qur'an's wisdom is crucial for effective da wah today.

The Prophet (ﷺ) as a Lamp Spreading Light

One of his most beautiful titles is al-Siraj al-Munir — the radiant lamp whose light dispelled the darkness of shirk and disbelief. He himself (ﷺ) described his mission as the answered prayer of Abraham [al-Baqarah, 2:129], the glad tidings of Jesus [al-Ṣaff, 61:6], and the light seen by his mother during pregnancy illuminating the palaces of Syria.

The Farewell Sermon: Completion of the Mission

During his final Hajj, the Prophet (ﷺ) addressed more than a hundred thousand companions: "O people, listen carefully to my words, for I do not know if I shall ever meet you again after this year. No prophet or messenger will come after me, and no new faith will be born. I leave behind two things: the Qur'an and my Sunnah. If you hold fast to them, you will never go astray."

At that moment, Allah revealed the perfection of His religion: "Today I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and chosen Islam as your way of life." [al-Maʾidah, 5:3]

After the Prophet (ﷺ), his companions carried Islam far beyond Arabia — most of them dying in distant lands to ensure the message spread across the world.

Our Responsibility Today

The Prophet (ﷺ) partially completed his mission. The mantle now rests on us — the ummah of Muhammad (ﷺ) . Da'wah is not optional; it is the lifeblood of this ummah's existence. To be true to his legacy, we must:

- Live by the Qur'an and Sunnah.
- Convey the message of Islam wisely and sincerely.
- Enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong.

This is the trust placed upon us until the end of time.

The Story of Atif and the Old Man... Cont'd

The Lesson of the Story

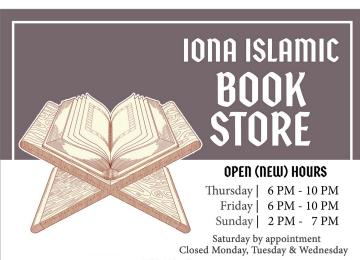
This story teaches the importance of showing kindness and compassion to the less fortunate. It highlights how helping others can bring joy and blessings into our lives.

Just like Atif, we should be mindful of those in need around us and share what we have to make their lives a little better. As taught in Islam, showing mercy and kindness is a virtue that brings us closer to Allah and spreads love and harmony in the community.

https://www.sahlah.net/blog







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IONA Food Catering Service



IONA catering service perfect for private gatherings and major events like weddings and graduations. Enjoy the convenience of having our delectable dishes of a delightful selection of Pakistani,

Bangladeshi, and Indian cuisine 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. For inquiries or to place your order, please feel free to call us at 248-462-6244.



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Call Tehseen at 586-202-4333 or 586-553-9135 to secure your peace of mind today!

SEPEMBER 2025

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqamah Timing

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

* 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 is dedicated to transforming its members and surrounding communities into righteous, God-fearing individuals who collectively strive for the highest moral standards and continuously seek God's forgiveness to earn His pleasure. IONA members earnestly seek His mercy and grace in both this life and the hereafter. They rejuvenate their souls through internal struggle (jihad) and spiritual exercises in the worship of the Creator, the Most Glorified. Their deep faith in God Almighty empowers them with the courage to promote good, forbid evil, and engage in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.

