

Quarterly Newsletter



"IIT's Feed the Homeless in LA



"The best Islam is that you feed the hungry and spread peace among people you know and those you do not know." Prophet



Islam at It's Best: Eliminating Hunger: Building Bridges

"And they feed, for the love of Allah, the indigent, the orphan, and the captive, (saying): "We feed for the sake of Allah alone, no reward do we desire from you, nor thanks." (98:9)

Hunger is one of the greatest tests of an individual or a nation. The presence of hunger in the world is a clear indication of human failures and injustices both at a social and economic level. It's a human failure because one of the main goals of society is to satisfy the basic needs of its people which is food. And it's an injustice because there is enough food in the world for everyone to have their basic needs met – yet two thirds of the world goes hungry!

Often we feel that feeding the poor is a favor done to the poor. It is a command from Allah which entails compulsion. The Qur'an extols us to action: **"Surely those who believe and do good deeds..."**. Allah constantly attaches faith to good deeds over 60 times in the Qur'an, and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) placed the feeding of the poor at the very top of good deeds. **The best of all deeds is to bring happiness to other Muslims, by satiating his**

hunger, covering his nakedness, or fulfilling any need of his. Feeding the poor is an easy means of entering Paradise."

Feeding the poor expiates violations in Islam. Allah ordains: **"... And for him who is unable to do so (freeing a slave or fasting 60 consecutive days), he should feed 60 Miskin (poor). That is in order that you may have perfect Faith in Allah and His Messenger. These are the limits set by Allah."** The Prophet (SAW) also warned that turning away from feeding the poor will be one of several reasons for being placed in hellfire.

Alhamdulillah, IIT has been maintaining this order for the past 8 years in our Feed the Homeless Program. We now feed 1200 hot meals every month from the kitchen of LA Mission. This is one of IIT's most successful programs and we extend our gratitude to all who support this program. During the month of Ramadan, our community again rose to the occasion of feeding the hungry. This time it was a food raiser for Community's Child, a non-profit that feeds children at school. As the number of hungry families are increasing in the South Bay, IIT seized this opportunity and collected tinned items like peanut butter and canned beans to support families during summer.



The magnitude of pilgrims performing the Hajj is staggering despite the heat.



Hajj: The Pilgrimage To Mecca

“There is no God but Allah and Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest and to Allah belongs all praise.”

As the Takbir-e-Tashreeq resounds around the hills of Mecca, millions of pilgrims from every corner of the planet congregate to perform the rituals of Hajj.

The uniqueness of this event is that millions of people of every creed, culture and language gather at the same time, in the same place with the same intention. In this lies the greatest miracle of all: that Hajj transcends and destroys the distinctions of race, social and economic status.

The other noteworthy aspect of Hajj is that every pilgrim has the same opportunity in walking in the footsteps of the Prophets and experiencing what they felt when performing the rituals. We understand the awe of Hazrat Ebrahim (AS) at the sight of the Ka’ba, the distress of Hajra in the Sae’eh, the fulfillment of Hazrat Ismail (AS) as we quench our thirst with Zam Zam, the love of Hazrat Musa (AS) in the Tawaf, the justice of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as we kiss the Hajre Aswad, and the expectation of Hazrat Suleiman when we make the journey to Madina to meet our Prophet (SAW).

It is no wonder that the pilgrim who performs the Hajj is given the title of Hajji, because they have the honor of transforming their lives to live like the Prophets of Allah. Subhanallah!

IIT Goes High Tech

We are excited to announce that IIT is beginning implementation of a brand new all-in-one masjid management system. The system will propel IIT into the forefront of technology and end-user convenience with:

- Membership Management**
- Donation Tracking and Management Website**
- SMS and Email Campaign Capability**
- Touch-based Donation Kiosk in the Masjid**
- Smartphone App**

Community members will have numerous donation options including IIT's website, inside the masjid through the touch-based kiosk, in person, and through the new IIT mobile phone app. We will be able to accept both credit cards and ACH/Bank Debit transactions. Donors will also be able to setup one-time or recurring donations for the number of months they choose. Our app (iOS App Store and Google Play Store) will not only allow for donations but, will serve to provide community members the latest news and announcements, as well as prayer times. The communications management system will allow users to subscribe, update, and unsubscribe from our database. Please look for these exciting changes to roll out slowly over the next few months.

This new management system is the brainchild of Br. **Adnan Khan** who has taken this initiative to ensure that IIT “moves with the time” and that your convenience is very important to us. Imam extends a special thanks to Adnan for his continued efforts in improving access to our Center. May Allah bless his efforts, Ameen.

IIT Updates

- Feed the Homeless Program: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday at LA Mission. Volunteers leave IIT at 8:00 am to prepare meal at LA Mission.
- IIT celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr on Wednesday 6th July followed by our Community Potluck Breakfast. What an enormous success! A special Thank You to all members for their support during Ramadan.
- On 13th July Athia presented Islam Q&A at First Lutheran Church, Torrance.
- On 19th July Imam Ashraf was invited by Mayor Robles to offer opening invocation at the Carson City Council Meeting. The Chambers also offered a beautiful greeting to IIT.
- On 20th July Imam represented IIT at the Wells Fargo exhibit ;"My Neighbors: Capturing the Soul of America's Diversity".
- On 11th August IIT will attend the DHS Community Roundtable at the LA Police Headquarters in Los Angeles.
- On 20th August IIT will again participate & sponsor the Annual World Peace Pilgrimage at Mt. Baldy, offering an Islamic Peace Prayer at all levels.
- On 27th Aug IIT will participate at the LA Mission's Summer Feed, volunteering to feed the homeless. IIT students and community members will participate.



Imam at Carson City Chambers



IIT's Africa Drive

The month of Zil-Haj is visiting us again and we commemorate Eid-ul-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice in this auspicious month. This is a **humble appeal** in response to our poor Muslim Brothers and Sisters in Africa to remember them in this time. This is the **only time** that many in the remote villages have meat to eat. This year the situation is compounded by the severe **drought**. Help your fellow Muslim by donating your **Qurbani to IIT**. We will make sure that your Qurbani reaches those in desperate need.

You can also do Qurbani for your deceased family members, and also on behalf of Rasulullah (saw). The last day for orders will be 10 September. Call **Imam Ashraf @ 310-323-3786** or email him at imamashraf786@gmail.com with the names and your telephone number. You may also send your checks to IIT- Memo details: Qurbani. **Thank you.**

International Institute of Tolerance (IIT)

Qurbani Africa Drive

Share of Cow \$188 Sheep \$120 Goat \$110

Eid ul Adha commemorates the sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and in this spirit we should not forget our Brothers & Sisters in Africa who can only enjoy eating meat this time of the year. Please support this drive.

Price includes Slaughtering, Cleaning and Distribution to poor Muslims in remote areas.

Last day for orders will be 10th September 2016. Contact Imam Ashraf 310-323-3786 / imamashraf786@gmail.com

For Sadaqahs and Aqiqahs throughout the year contact: Imam Ashraf Carrim (310) 323-3786

IIT Services

IIT offers a variety of programs, religious, educational, and social, to advance the well-being of our community. These programs include Jumah Salah/Friday Khutbah, daily congregational prayers, Taraweeh, observance of all Big Nights, Nazira classes, **Saturday Islamic classes**, Adult Qur'an reading classes, Professional Counseling, and fortnightly Qadri Khatam and Zikr. , Funeral rites and arrangement, performance of Marriage, Darud Nariya every Thursday night after Isha prayer, Spiritual nights, and participation by invitation of the community to various events. **Professional Tajweed classes offered Mon/Tues/Wed.**

Community Billboard

- DO not forget to Contribute to IIT's Building Fund . Earn your Castle in Jannah & become part of the Masjid Program.
- For all your Tax contact Mohamed Jalloh at E-Tax Resolutions at (310) 502-2174
- For all Real Estate needs please contact Ameena Haseeb at 310-972-0387.
- For Suits & Italian Fashion contact Jaffer 310-539-8788 at Facia Facia.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said:

1. "Whoever builds a Mosque for Allah, Allah will build for him likewise in Paradise/Jannah." [Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim].
2. "Whoever builds a Mosque for Allah - be it Large or Small - Allah will build for him a house in Paradise/Jannah." [Sunan al-Tirmidhi].
3. The building of a Mosque is a way for a person to continue to earn blessings after death. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) also said: "One of the things that continues to accrue for a believer of his good works after death is: A Mosque that he built." [Sunan Ibn Majah and Sunan al-Bayhaqi]

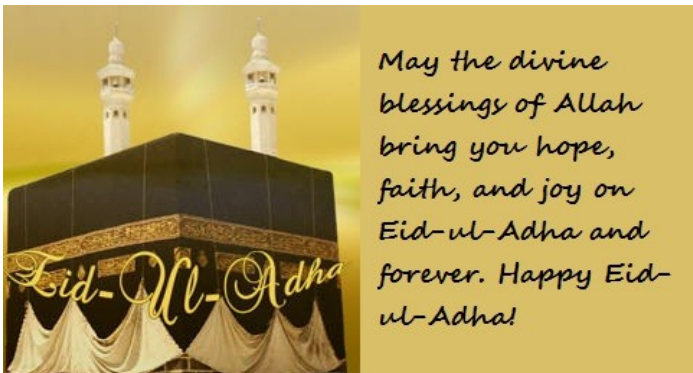
Eid-ul-Adha and Community Potluck Breakfast will be celebrated by IIT. Please check our announcement date on Fridays and on our website www.iitusa.org



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The International Institute of Tolerance was founded on the principle of Justice and Equity. Its services are religious and charitable, and grounded in the Islamic faith. One of the principle aims of the Institute is to integrate Muslim Americans into our pluralistic American society. The Institution is focused on working in harmony with other faith groups and civic organizations to enhance our collective futures. The Institute provides religious, educational, and social services to advance justice and promote compassion. Outside its religious services, the Institute's charitable intent can be found in its outreach program. This is the essence of the Islamic value system which drives the Institute's role and functions.



“There is nothing dearer to Allah during the days of Qurbani than the sacrificing of animals. The sacrificed animal shall come on the Day of Qiyama with it's horns, hair & hooves to be weighed. The sacrifice is accepted by Allah before the blood reaches the ground. So sacrifice with an open & happy heart”.
Prophet Muhammad (saw)



Message from the Imam

“It is neither their meat nor blood that reaches Allah: rather it is your piety/devotion that reaches Him.” Quran: Haj:37)

The Spirit of Sacrifice: The Days of Zul-Hijjah

The first 10 days of Zul Hijjah are among the most magnificent days in the Islamic Calendar. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) said:

“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than in these ten days.” (Bukhari)

Eid-ul-Adha is commemorated in the memory of an unparalleled sacrifice, offered over 4000 years ago by a truly loyal Prophet, Ebrahim (AS) to his Creator and Sustainer, Allah. The festival is a reflection of pure obedience to Allah, and an act of gratitude for His Mercy and Compassion. Exactly at the same time and date, every year, Muslims all over the world repeat the same act and revive their spirit like Hazrat Ebrahim (AS).

It is this spirit of sacrifice that I draw your attention to. We must remember the millions of Muslims around the world who are victims of war, famine, economical downturn and natural calamities. No year has seen the displacement of so many people as the tragedy of the Syrians! It is this century's greatest shame! We have to establish our duty towards them as we reflect on our fortunes now.

Remember, a person is not a Muslim merely by pursuing a certain set of rituals, or proclaiming the Shahada. Actually, a Muslim is a “pilgrim of eternity” who tries to experience Allah, and transform his personality. The vehicle with which to undertake this journey is the model of the Holy Prophet (SAW), who taught us selfless service to humanity by his own example, so that we may transform ourselves. Ameen