

Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Mobile Islamic Community



2025

READ THE HOLY QURAN DAILY

**With Allah's Name, The Merciful Benefactor,
The Merciful Redeemer
Muslim Journal's 20th Annual A Time To
Be Grateful (ATTBG) Conference
"The Power of the Pen Fostering
Understanding, Truth and Unity"
December 19–22, 2024 in Miami, Florida
Reported by Linda Bilal**

This is the kind of conference that takes planning and savings well in advance. In fact, to save money, purchasing the Early Bird package and making early hotel and travel arrangements is highly recommended.

It was a busy event starting on Thursday at 4pm and ending Sunday with a Tour of Miami/Masjid Al Ansar from 1-3pm. I can't begin to tell you everything that happened in this power packed week-end, but my intent is twofold. I would like to share the Muslim Journal's importance to our community and hopefully we can increase our support for the Muslim Journal Newspaper available in a variety of different ways. This conference is a much-needed fundraiser for our newspaper. There has been a justifiable price increase for the paper which is now \$3.00 each.

Just a little history that I learned during the conference: The Muslim Journal Newspaper has been in continuous publication since October 1975 with 62 plus years of Excellence in Muslim American Journalism (successor to the historic Muhammad Speaks Newspaper and 1977 Bilalian News).

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Read, Listen, and Study Tafsirs and Lectures of Imam W.D. Mohammed

20th ANNUAL ATTBG Continued

Before COVID the Muslim Journal had 309 subscribers and after COVID there were 90. The Muslim Journal Newspaper editor, Ayesha K. Mustafaa has worked for years without a salary. The Muslim Journal Newspaper is our voice and has spoken out on injustices. Over the years I have written articles, or advertised local events or personal achievements, as can anyone. The Muslim Journal Newspaper just got a major upgrade. They have redesigned the format with more content to ensure we stay informed on community, national, and international news.

This was not my first ATTBG conference and (G-d willing) not my last. We have to agree that it is always **a time to be grateful--so grateful** that the Muslim Journal Newspaper is our voice. I have made a commitment to support the Muslim Journal Newspaper and I hope you will too. Before I share some more about the ATTBG events, I want to share how you can help. Here are several ways that you can support. Become a lifetime subscriber for just \$1000.00. This can be paid in installments and you will also receive a gold certificate and collar pin. The paper is available in print or online with a 6-month subscription (26 issues for \$70), 1 year (52 issues for \$135) or 2-year subscription (104 issues for \$200).

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RAJAB is the Seventh Month of the Islamic (Hijri) Calendar

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There was a 90 day subscription drive contest-not sure if that is still available. Or be a vendor and get 5 papers or 20. The Muslim Journal Newspaper is depending on us for support.

I arrived Thursday to the Hilton Miami Downtown and the air was filled with a vibe that was electric with smiles, greetings of peace and plenty of hugs (one of the best gifts to give each other). The sun was shining bright as Muslims traveled from all parts of the USA and Bermuda to support this glorious event. The view from my room on the 19th floor was breathtaking as I could see Margaret Pace Park and the waters of Biscayne Bay. One of my first conversations was with Imam Dr. Bashir Ali, Convener of Imams National/Midwest Section.



Imam Dr. Ali was instrumental in gathering community support, after Imam WD Mohammad's transition, of Imam's nationally. To learn more about this initiative go to the web site www.iwdmcommunity.com Unknown to me at that time, as I had not gotten my registration package,

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Imam Dr Bashir Ali would be doing the lecture on Friday.

Without going into a great deal of detail on the lecture given by Imam Dr. Bashir Ali, I provide an overview in my own words. He spoke on three verses that brought us to the understanding that we should know who we are, where we are going and our purpose. We are a NEW PEOPLE and We Can Not Stop Now. That last sentence is not anything we have not heard before. Imam W.D. Mohammed spoke about New Africa on many occasions. I won't put the entire verse, but just the part that connected the three. My translation is The Qur'an, A Complete Revelation by Sam Gerrans for reference. The verses are: 30:27 And He it is that begins creation; then He repeats it – and it is most easy for Him. Also 13:19 Is then he who knows that what is sent down to thee from thy Lord is the truth like him who is blind? And 7:181 And among those We created is a community which guides in truth and does justice thereby.

My understandings...Allah begins creation, created in truth and among that creation is a community guided by Allah's truth. For Allah's truth I am so grateful!!

There were several activities for all participants with a specific location for the prayers. Workshops on both Friday and Saturday covered subjects including business, health, Qur'anic Arabic, meet and greet, education, political influence, economics and many more.

Conventions are like a joyous family reunion, and I am so grateful for seeing all my Muslim sisters and brothers! The music was very lively at the fabulous Caribbean fashion show with the Saturday luncheon. As always, the Awards Banquet Saturday evening, which was moderated by Imam Omar Adib Shakir and his lovely wife, Zarinah from San Antonio, Texas, was a highlight of the weekend.

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I am glad I attended the Sunday Business Breakfast, usually I do not attend, but I arranged later travel and so glad I did. The speaker was Brother Hud Williams, Regional Manager from Saturna Capital Corporation and Amana Mutual Funds Trust. He spoke on halal investing that meets the requirements of the Islamic faith. This information is valuable for anyone that has an IRA (individual retirement accounts), HSA (health saving accounts), ESA (education savings accounts), 401 (k), SEP, SIMPLE (employer plans), UGMA/UTMA (custodial accounts), also Taxable and Joint Accounts.

Over the years I have been to many Cultural Night programs. This was a balanced and very well-rounded Culture Night program. There were poems, music, videos, songs, a play and even rapp. Our own Imam Wilmore Sadiki from Saint Petersburg, Florida played the guitar and sang songs. Among them, "Born a Muslim, Will be a Muslim Till the Day I Die". Zaimah Habeeb, aka Zaimah Beloved, a professional singer and songwriter was on stage. There was a band and a couple of other singers that had the attendees clapping with the beat. The one performance that was for me the most interesting was the play based on the book "The River of Gold" by Shahid Abdullah. Most of you might know him as the husband of Laila Muhammad. Shahid Abdullah resides in New Jersey where he created his new line in men's fashion, The Bilalian Style for Men. I purchased the book "The River of Gold" about an African American family as they evolved in America during the Golden Era of Black Wall Street.

I want to thank you in advance for being a supporter of our Muslim Journal Newspaper. I look forward to our contribution and involvement to keep building this legacy.

**Send Articles, Points of View,
Announcements,
Questions/Comments To
Dr. Maryam C. Hasan
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RAJAB

RAJAB is the Seventh Month of the Islamic (Hijri) Calendar. Followed by Shaban and then Ramadan, this is the time to focus on what is ahead of us as we approach Ramadan.

RAMADAN 2025 (1446)

Ramadan is expected to start near the end of February or beginning of March 2025 (1446). As we prepare, let us reflect on these things:

Allah Has said in The Quran:

"... and men who fast and women who fast, ... Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a mighty reward."

(Surah Al-Ahzab, 33:35)

It was narrated by Abu Huraira (R.A.) that Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.) said:

"Whoever fasts Ramadan out of faith and hope for reward, his past sins will be forgiven." (Sahih Bukhari: 38)

It was narrated by Abu Huraira (R.A.) that the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W.) said:

"When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of the heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained." (Sahih Bukhari: 1899) Source: Islamic Finder

Ramadan is the month of fasting, worship, prayer, and contemplation. It will be upon us soon.

Announcements

MASJID MUHAMMAD JACKSON
INVITES YOU TO OUR
8TH ANNUAL
**PRE-RAMADAN
FUNDRAISER &
AWARDSBANQUET**
"A Call For Intergenerational Leadership"
Saturday, February 1st, 6 PM - 8 PM
Location: The International Museum of Muslim Cultures
201 E. Pascagoula St. Jackson MS 39201

Join Jackson's Historic Masjid Muhammad Community at our annual FUNDRAISING and Awards Banquet.

Enjoy an evening of wholesome celebration, a silent auction, and good food with friends.

All while helping to support your local Muslim neighbors toward the building of a stronger community and a new Masjid.

Hosted By:
MASJID MUHAMMAD JACKSON
THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF MUSLIM CULTURES

Special Guest Speaker
Imam Rashid Abul-Hasan Ali Nadwi

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The next newsletter will highlight Ramadan and Eid Recipes. Send yours to meet the deadline.