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Message from the President

Salaamun Alaikum

As I pen this message, our thoughts are with those who have been affected by the atrocities of what happened in London a few weeks ago. No good purpose can be achieved by such an indiscriminate and cruel use of terror. Religious precepts cannot be used to justify such crimes, which are completely contrary to the teaching and practice of Islam. These attacks strengthen our determination to live together in peace and mutual understanding with people from different communities, different faiths and different traditions.

As you look through these pages of Insight, you will be heartened to see the numerous community activities supported by the World Federation over the past few months. Our hundreds of volunteers and donors, throughout the world, are continually and selflessly helping us in numerous ways to achieve our objectives. I am humbled and thank Allah (SWT) for having given us the opportunity to serve and for having helped us in our efforts to deliver the objectives identified through our Strategic Plan for 2003 to 2006, as endorsed by Conference in 2003.

The World Federation exists to serve, just as it has done in the past, continuing to work with its membership to ensure that we serve and add value. Whilst we continue to work in cooperation and function with mutual respect, we strive to ensure that unnecessary protocols and bureaucracies do not hinder our speed and efficiency to deliver and serve. InshaAllah, working collectively and in harmony we will ensure that those in need receive the services they require and expect of us.

We continue to progress the resolution for economic upliftment of our brothers in Africa passed at the Dubai Conference in October 2003. The World Federation is financing the entire project of 12 flats, identified as a need in Arusha, Tanzania by the Africa Federation, at a cost of USD \$260,000. The World Federation will provide a sum of USD \$110,000 immediately, with the balance of USD \$150,000 over 12 months. The housing will be allocated according to strict criteria and no rent will be charged over and above that required for the maintenance of the property. In implementing the Higher Education Loan Scheme, we have successfully obtained an agreement in

principle from certain financial institutions, and I am pleased to inform you that the Office Bearers of the Africa Federation have now taken the lead in progressing further discussions.

In recognising that we are merely trustees of the Awaited One (AS), it is imperative that we have clear direction on the religiously correct method for disbursing huqooq funds. Accordingly, at the very first Executive Council meeting of this term, the community was presented with a paper on the principles of distribution of huqooq funds. The purpose of this paper was to ensure that the community discharges its Sharia obligations in accordance with the guidelines from our Marja and thereby strengthen the grassroots confidence in our community's institutions.

Strengthening our central institution is the principal way to bring about constructive change throughout our community. Each time individuals stand up to improve our community they send forth an innocuous but important ripple of motivation and momentum to act. Together we can build a current of such ripples to sweep down the mightiest walls of ignorance and deprivation.

I thank you for taking time and interest in learning more about how we aim to serve our community and request that you continue to support and participate in our community so that we may strengthen one another through harmony. I urge you to submit any comments you may have so that the World Federation team and I may serve our community effectively. Please remember our marhumeen with a Surah Fateha.

With Salaams & Duas

Ahmed Hassam

Enhancing Channels of Communication with the Marja

By Dr. Hasnain Walji

“Why is it that the Maraje do not travel around the world and meet muqallidin so that they may have a realistic view of the challenges faced by the Community, particularly in the West?”

As I travel around visiting our community, invariably the above question arises as people discuss the challenges confronting the community. As Insight continues with the introduction of the contemporary Ulema, I thought it opportune to address this question with, albeit, a brief answer.

With great humility, my premise is that the very question suggests a lack of understanding of the role and duties of our respected Maraje. Therefore the answer lies in correctly understanding the role of the Maraje first so as to enable the community to manage its expectations.

Firstly, Islam, in accordance with the teachings of the school of Ahlulbayt (AS), does not have class priesthood nor does it have ‘priests’ or ‘sacraments’. This is a Christian concept that seems to have seeped in to our culture. Therefore Ayatullah Seestani is not our ‘pope’.

Essentially, a Marja is a person who possesses knowledge and his distinction lies in that fact. According to the Holy Quran, “Say! Are those who know equal to those who do not know?” (Surah Zumar - 39:9)

The above ayat makes a clear distinction between those with knowledge and those who are not. This distinction particularly applies to the hardships experienced by the scholars (Ulema) to preserve and develop the knowledge, which leads to humankind realizing the truth (Islam). As to their sources, the Quran is the main source of knowledge and after that are the ahadith of the Masumeen (AS). These two sources contain basic laws and guiding principles for all areas of learning.

The Prophet (SAW) has said: “An Alim is superior to an

Ascetic (a person engaged in worship) in the same way as the moon is brighter than all the stars on the night of a full moon.” He further said: “No gift is more valuable than that one should tell his fellow Muslim a true word by which he/she is guided to the path of Allah (SWT) and keep away from the path of kufr.” This is the essence of the inspiration for our Maraje – *“to tell his fellow Muslim a true word by which he/she is guided to the path of Allah (SWT) and keep away from the path of kufr.”*

It is in this context, that we consider the Maraje to be our guides. While it is indeed important for them to understand the needs of the community, it falls upon us as members of the community to foster the interaction. The KSI Community has been blessed with a cadre of leaders who understood this and have always endeavoured to maintain contact with the Maraje. (See issue 16 of the Insight)

Our development as a community and our striving for the betterment of it rests on two critical factors:

1. In the past, a vast majority of the community as a whole has made Ruju towards and accepted one Marja for the sake of continuity and unity.

2. We have understood that the onus of keeping the Maraje abreast of our challenges rests with us. Hence, our leaders have briefed our Maraje on our concerns so they can assist us.

The above factors have stood us in good stead in the past and our future planning must take these two factors into account. A close relationship with the Maraje can only benefit the development of our community. In view of the huge workload and responsibilities resting on the Maraje, it is physically impossible for them to meet all their Muqallideen. Therefore it is all the more important that our institutions continually improve the channels of communication with them.

Ayatullah al-Uzma al-Hajj as-Sayyid Muhammad Saeed Taba'taba'i al-Hakim



Ayatullah Saeed Taba'taba'i al-Hakim was born in the city of Najaf in 1935 into a religious and scholarly family. His father was a Marja' Taqlid and the supreme spiritual leader of the Shi'a world.

Ayatullah al-Hakim's studies of the Islamic sciences began at a very young age when he was under the tutelage of his father and grandfather, as well as Ayatullah Husain al-Hilli and the Ayatullah Abul Qasim al-Kho'ei, and many

others. It was under Ayatullah Al-Kho'ei that he began the highest level of studies, Ba'thul Kharij, and was able to benefit from such wisdom.

In 1968, when he was a mere 34 years old, Ayatullah al-Hakim began to teach the upcoming students of the Theological Seminary. He had already attained the status at which one is free to extract Islamic rulings from their sources. Ayatullah al-Hakim has gone through many difficult times, including the murder of 16 personalities from his family at

the hands of the former head of Iraq. The imprisonment and killing of these individuals took place in the now-notorious prison of Abu Ghurayb. His tireless work, studying and teaching have continued over the past 40 years. He continues to teach classes to senior students and has kept himself busy with writing.

Common terminology used

'Ilm al-Rijal	Research into the biographies of the narrators of ahadith.
Lum'ah	Concise but comprehensive text of Fiqh.
Mantiq	Logic.
Rijal	Biography of Narrators of Holy Traditions.
Sutuh	Intermediate religious studies.
Tafsir	Quranic Exegesis.
Usul al Fiqh	Principles of jurisprudence.
Aqaid	Beliefs.
Ba'thul-Kharij	The highest level of studies in the Hawza.
Diraya	Science of Comprehension of Traditions.



Ayatullah al-Uzma al-Hajj as-Sayyid Ali al-Husaini Khamenei



Ayatullah Ali Husaini Khamenei was born in 1939 in Mashhad, Iran, into a respected scholarly family. His father Ayatullah Sayyid Jawad, and his mother, the daughter of Sayyid Hashim Najafabadi (MirDamadi), formed a line of well-known Ulamas of Mashhad.

Ayatullah Khamenei lived his childhood under the care of his father, a theological scholar who taught all members of his family

how to lead a simple, humble life. Although he was content, those years were very hard on the family because of poverty.

At the age of five, Ayatullah Khamenei and his elder brother Sayyid Muhammad were sent to Maktab (Qur'anic classes). They were then enrolled into a religious primary school by the name of "Dar ut Ta'lim e Diyanati." After he finished the primary school course, he attended evening classes in a state school and later enrolled in a secondary school, each time obtaining a certificate. At the age of fourteen he joined the Sulaiman Khan School to study religious sciences. After completion of the study of Arabic grammar and the preliminary religious sciences he studied some of the Sutuh till the end of Lum'ah.

Subsequently Ayatullah Khamenei joined the Nuwwab Religious Seminary to complete his Sutuh level of studies at the young age of sixteen. This led to his attending Ba'thul-Kharj under the supervision of Ayatullah Milani.

In addition to Fiqh and Usul, he also learned and taught Islamic philosophy, rijal, astronomy, and tafsir. He studied under eminent scholars and jurists like Ayatullah Mirza Javad, Agha Tehrani, Ayatullah Hakim, Imam Khomeini, Ayatullah Burujedi and Allamah Tabatabai. In 1958 Ayatullah Khamenei migrated to Qum, where he studied for six years.

Ayatullah Khamenei started teaching early in his student days. Whatever he learnt with his God-given ingenuity and great devotion, he taught with complete mastery. In 1974, Ayatullah Khamenei obtained a licence for ijtihaad from his teacher, Ayatullah Heiri, after attending Ba'thul-Kharj for more than fifteen years.

"In the areas of political and revolutionary ideas and Islamic jurisprudence, I am certainly a disciple of Imam Khomeini," Ayatullah Khamenei said. It was in Qum in 1962, however, that Ayatullah Khamenei joined the ranks of the revolutionary followers of Imam Khomeini. Dedicatedly and fearlessly he followed this path for the next 16 years, which ultimately led to the downfall of the Shah's brutal regime that included persecution, torture, imprisonment and exile.

Ayatullah al-Uzma al-Hajj ash-Shaykh Muhammad Ishaq al-Fayyadh

Born in 1930, in the village of Gharneen near the southern part of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, Ayatullah Fayyadh joined his father in the pursuit of Islamic studies in the theological seminaries, where he learned the Qur'an, all the introductory Islamic studies – including Arabic and logic – under the guidance of Shaykh Mullah Ismail and Mullah Haider Ali.

After the death of his beloved mother, Ayatullah Fayyadh made his first move to acquire more Islamic knowledge and proceeded onto to Mashhad, Iran. During his stay in the sacred city, he studied the works of prominent and well-known scholars of the theological seminary. After a short period, he moved to Najaf and studied under such notable personalities as Shaykh Mirza Kadhimi Tabrizi, Sayyid Asadullah Madan

and Mirza Ali Falsafee. He then continued onto the higher levels of studies and benefited from the guidance of Shaykh Muftaba Lankarani. His highest and final level of studies was carried out under the grand Mara'ja and scholars of the seminary.

In addition to learning the higher sciences, Ayatullah Fayyadh took on the role of teacher and imparted valuable Islamic lessons on various disciplines in the Najaf seminary. He expanded the teaching of Hawza studies by introducing his own discussions, known as Ba'thul Kharj, in the year 1977. These original lessons, some of which have been recorded and published in book form, continue until today.

Ayatullah al-Uzma al-Hajj ash-Shaykh Husain Wahid Khurasani



Ayatullah Husain Wahid Khurasani was born in 1928 in the sacred city of Mashhad, Iran into a religious and pious family. After completing his primary school studies in this sacred city, he embarked on primary and secondary level Islamic studies under the guidance of the late Ayatullah Muhammad Nahawandi and other notable scholars of the Theological Seminary of Mashhad.

In addition to the traditional Islamic studies of the Theological Seminary, he also studied philosophy under great personalities such as the late Mirza Abul Qasim Ilayhi and

Mirza Mahdi Ashtiyani. It was in 1956, while studying under the late Ayatullah Hujjat Kuhkamari and after making his way to the city of Ray that lay just outside of Tehran, that he was granted the license of Ijtihad. In order to complete his studies in Islamic sciences, Ayatullah Khurasani made the long trip to Najaf in Iraq and studied under some of the great teachers of the Hawza. These personalities included the late Ayatullahs Mirza Abdul Hadi Shirazi, Muhsin al-Hakim and Abul Qasim al-Kho'ei.

After 12 years of studies in Najaf, Ayatullah Khurasani returned to Mashhad at the insistence of other teachers and students to begin teaching the middle and higher levels of Islamic sciences in the Hawza 'Ilmiyyah. After a few years in his hometown of Mashhad, he migrated to Qum, Iran, where he currently resides.



Ayatullah al-Uzma al-Hajj ash-Shaykh Lutfullah as-Safi Gulpaygani

Ayatullah Lutfullah Safi, a renowned scholar of Islam and one of the greatest thinkers of our time, was born in 1917 in Gulpaygan, Iran. His father, the late Ayatullah Muhammad Jawad as-Safi, was a well-known Alim and an Arif. He was a specialist in Islamic studies, a researcher, writer, and teacher in various fields of Islamic sciences as well as in poetry and calligraphy.



Ayatullah Safi started his primary Arabic studies in Gulpaygan, under the tutelage of the great scholar, Marhum Akhund Mullah Abul Qasim. He continued his studies in the fields of Arabic, Kalam, Tafsir of the Quran, Hadith, Fiqh, and Usul until the end of Sutu in this city.

In 1940, Ayatullah Safi left Gulpaygan and made the migration to Qum. It was in Qum that he would take part in the classes being offered by the greatest Scholars of the Hawza 'Ilmiyyah of Qum, and the place where he would be able to continue on the road of completing his studies and research in Islam. A few years later, Ayatullah Safi made the journey to Najaf and for one year, took part in the lessons being offered by the Great Maraja of that religious institution.

After studying in Najaf, Ayatullah Safi returned to Qum. It was there, that for more than fifteen years, he attended classes on Akhlaq and Irfan, then being taught by Ayatullah Burujerdi. It was at this time that Ayatullah Safi was chosen to be one of the special advisors to Ayatullah Burujerdi, and was one of the few selected people who worked on answering the religious questions that were being sent in by the

Muqallidin of the late Ayatullah. After recognizing the level of knowledge and the ability that Ayatullah Safi possessed, Ayatullah Burujerdi decided to keep him in charge of answering the important and sensitive questions that were coming into the Late Marja's office in the fields of fiqh and kalam.

Some of the academic achievements of this scholar include teaching and research in various fields of Islamic Studies, such as fiqh, usul, kalam, hadith, rijal and other areas. He also is the author of more than 80 valuable books, both in Farsi and Arabic, some of which some have been translated into various languages.

During his studies in the Hawza of Qum, Ayatullah Safi was ranked with high esteem as one of the greatest scholars by leading figures of the Muslim world, such as Ayatullah Jamal ad-Din Gulpaygani, Ayatullah Burujerdi, Ayatullah Khomeini, Ayatullah Muhammad Rida Gulpaygani, and various others.

Even today and despite his immense responsibilities, Ayatullah Safi still finds the time to keep himself informed on a day to day basis of the news of the world, with special attention taken to the news of the world of Islam.

With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, Ayatullah Safi, on behalf of the Ayatullah Khomeini, was placed in charge of the "Shura Negahban" or the "Council of Guardians of the Islamic Revolution." For eight years as the Secretary General of the Council of Guardians, Ayatullah Safi had provided his valuable assistance to establishing and preserving social order in Iran, and to the service of the people of the nation, in guarding the sanctity of Islam and the Qur'an. During these eight years, he never entertained any sort of doubt or uncertainty in his mind concerning his role in the Government. Today, he is counted as one of the leading and outstanding Marja', and one of the main pillars of the Hawza 'Ilmiyyah of Qum.

Report on 3rd Executive Council Meeting held in Toronto, Canada

Community leaders from Canada, the United States, Dubai, Africa and Europe deliberated, conversed and responded to the current challenges and decisions before the World Federation at the third Executive Council meeting held from 24-26 March 2005 at the Jaffari Islamic Center in Bayview, Toronto.



An aerial view of the delegates who attended the meeting

The President of the World Federation, Dr. Ahmed Hassam, highlighted how most of the manifesto commitments have been met. He stated that the strategic plan is moving along well and acknowledged the support from most of the regional federations and jamaat members. Centralisation is taking place albeit gradually, he said. He stressed that the focus of the World Federation remains the preservation of our religious identity, the elevation of our spiritual self, and the eradication of illiteracy, poverty, and disease.

Dr. Hassam stressed how there is a gap in leadership in many areas where the youth are disengaged. However, when the youth are given a challenge, they embrace it with all their heart. Dr. Hassam also shared his observations on the lack of unity and in-fighting taking place within our community, how some of our centres are half empty, and the issues members face in maintaining these centres that cause them to seek help and financial support from the World Federation. He said, "Our community looks upon the World Federation to solve many of their problems, especially financial. Unfortunately we do not have a magic wand but are ready and willing to assist our communities worldwide on their needs."

Highlights from the conference include:

1. A thorough progress report was given on the strategic plan "Creating Futures Together 2003-2008" and how the various boards and desks were implementing the plan.
2. A six-phase action plan has been agreed upon for the Tsunami Relief Fund. The focus of the World Federation has been on resettlement rather than emergency relief. More than £75,000 has been collected.
3. A Volunteer Handbook was presented and is now being discussed with all volunteers.
4. A progress report on the Africa Economic Upliftment plan was presented, which highlighted the quantum steps taken by the World Federation in education and housing.
5. The Bam project is on course and on budget. The hawza being built from the donations received from the community will be ready by June 2005.
6. In Qum, support for raising the standard of the students studying at the hawza is taking place. At the same time, support to the Khoja students is increasing. Outreach programmes in Bosnia are getting strengthening, and the focus on disseminating the message of the Quran and the Ahlulbayt (AS) is increasing.
7. It was agreed that the Capital Projects Standard Operating Procedure needs further input from regional federations and this will be undertaken and presented at the next Executive Council meeting.
8. Presidential Election Standard Operating Procedure will be reviewed after the next election and any further changes that may be required will be incorporated and represented at an Executive Council meeting.
9. The World Federation income for the year ended 31 December 2004 is up by around 18 per cent. At the same time, Secretariat expenditure is down by around 20%.
10. Br. Gulamabbas Dinani was unanimously elected as the Vice President due to the vacancy left after Marhum Sultan Davdani's untimely demise.
11. Br. Gulamabbas Najafi was unanimously elected as Executive Councillor of the World Federation.

The History of Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri

More than 250 participants, including the councillors and Office Bearers of the World Federation, gathered at the Masumin Islamic Center in Brampton, Canada, to examine the social, intellectual, political and cultural events in history and understand the pattern in which the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri have evolved.

Former President of the World Federation, Dr. Hasnain Walji, who has been studying the origins and development of the Khoja Community for some time, shared historical highlights. He articulated the challenges faced in the development of the KSI Community starting with Pir Sadr Din some six centuries ago to the present day. His presentation was followed by an engaging panel discussion about the Khojas as a people, their powers, their pride and prejudices.

The Khojas, considered to be one of the most successful minority communities in the Western world, are spread over five continents and number less than 125,000. With its Hindu heritage, the Community evolved into a diversified faith called Satpanth, which combined Sufi ideas with traces of Hindu belief. Then Ismaili pirs were able to bring the Khoja ancestors to the Nizari Ismaili path and eventually on to the Jafari madhhab. Hailing from Gujarat, they ventured toward the then unknown continent of Africa. Upon their arrival in Africa the Khojas were faced with the daunting prospect of exploring a vast new tract of land within the milieu of African and Arab cultures. To challenge them further, these Khoja pioneers were subjected to German rule in Tanganyika, British rule in other parts of East Africa, French rule in Madagascar, Italian rule in Somalia, Belgian rule in the Congo and Portuguese rule in Mozambique.

You may download or watch the entire seminar and the PowerPoint presentation on:

www.masumeen.org/multimedia/video/misc/historyofkhojas.php



Some of the men and women present at the seminar



CETAB Student Support Network

Students are urged to join CETAB SSN, which is dedicated to providing a wide range of services for the benefit of students worldwide.

For more information,
email: cetab@world-federation.org



World Federation finances housing project in Arusha, Tanzania

In line with the Africa economic upliftment resolution passed at the Dubai Conference in 2003, the World Federation is financing the entire project of 12 flats for the needy in Arusha, Tanzania at a cost of USD \$260,000. An initial sum of USD \$110,000 will be paid immediately, while the rest will be paid over the next one year. The housing is only for the needy members of our community and strict criteria will be put in place to ensure they will be allocated these flats.

President Visits Centres in Sydney, Australia

During his recent visit to Australia, Dr. Ahmed Hassam, President of the World Federation, visited the Imam Hasan (AS) Centre and Muhammadi Welfare Association in Sydney.

Dr. Hassam met with the directors of the Imam Hassan Centre, who gave him a tour whilst informing him about the activities that take place there. Dr. Hassam briefed them on the various activities of the World Federation and thanked the community for its contribution toward the Bam Earthquake Relief Fund.

At the Muhammadi Welfare Association, Dr. Hassam officiated the Eid e Mubahila ceremony and awarded prizes and Distinction Certificates to the youth who participated in a written competition organised by the Education Committee. In his address to the members of the Jamaat, Dr. Hassam congratulated the participants of the competition and emphasised the importance of establishing a Madrasah to ensure our children obtain Islamic teachings. He also encouraged parents to consider sending their youth on the short summer courses in Qum organised by the Islamic Education Board of World Federation.

The President informed the audiences about the current initiative of the World Federation to assist the orphans of Sadr City in Iraq.

Participation in the Muslim Council of Britain Leadership Development Programme

Nine members of our community have been selected to participate in the Muslim Council of Britain's Leadership Development Programme. The aim of the programme is to develop leadership capacity across the Muslim community in Britain.

The programme will enable participants to explore their assumptions, beliefs and attitudes about themselves, the organisations they work in and the environments in which they operate, including the wider British society, in order to enable them "to do differently" where necessary and possibly apply it to their daily lives.

World Federation Office Bearers meet with CoEJ Leadership

The World Federation office bearers met with the Office Bearers of the Council of European Jamaat (CoEJ) on 12 March 2005 to discuss opportunities for joint initiatives. The group reviewed the CoEJ Strategic Plan and agreed upon a working relationship. The World Federation has agreed to strengthen the Secretariat of CoEJ and has made a commitment that projects where CoEJ can utilise huqooq funds shall be funded. It was also agreed that projects which the CoEJ Executive Committee have approved that require non huqooq funds will involve both organisations working together to raise the funds.



The delegates at Dar al Tableegh in London

The President of the World Federation, Dr. Ahmed Hassam said, "I am delighted that we are able to work together to take forward the strategic plan of World Federation, 'Creating Futures Together.'" Br. Munawer Rattansey, the President of CoEJ said, "We have an excellent working relationship with World Federation and we have a unique opportunity to build upon this."

For further information on this programme,
Email: secretariat@world-federation.org

World Federation donates surgical gloves to the Government of Zanzibar

WF Executive Councillor Br. Anwarali Dharamsi accompanied the president of Zanzibar Jamaat Br. Moh'draza and Maalim Issa to donate 500 boxes of surgical gloves worth USD \$10,000 to the deputy health minister of the Zanzibar government on 19 Dec 2004.

The ceremony took place at the Zanzibar Main Hospital (Hospitali Ya Mnazi Mmoja Zanzibar) and was attended by government and hospital officials. Brother Anwarali delivered a message from the World Federation and thanked the government of Zanzibar for a good mutual relationship. The deputy health minister thanked the World Federation for its generous donation to the Zanzibar hospitals.

For further information on this event,
email: secretariat@world-federation.org



The Eid Qurbani helps the poor in Africa

The Africa Federation co-ordinated a qurbani project on 21 January 2005 for Eid-ul-Fitr. Mainly carried out in the rural areas of Kenya and Tanzania, there were 25 qurbanis for Sadqa, 107 for Eid, four for Aqiqa, two for Kaffara. The World Federation carries out qurbani on behalf of donors and has an online qurbani facility to submit requests.

For further information visit:
www.world-federation.org

IEB's work explained in 25 Jamaats during Muharram 1426

The Islamic Education Board (IEB) of the World Federation focused on creating awareness of its work and activities throughout the community during Muharram 1426. Team members and representatives delivered presentations in 25 jamaats across Africa, Europe and North America to enlighten community members on the Tableegh agenda.

Secondary aims were to attract new volunteers to support the IEB in its various projects & initiatives, and to raise funds for the IEB. Further details of the work of IEB can be viewed on the World Federation website under the section "IEB."

For further information,
email: ieb@world-federation.org

Interfaith Initiatives - Catholic Representative visits IEB at Dar al Tableegh

Ann Noonan, member of the Committee for other Faiths of Catholic Bishops, Conference of England and Wales, visited the Dar al Tableegh office in Harefield, UK on 25 January 2005.

A number of common issues were discussed and it was mutually agreed to work closely together to promote better understanding of each other's faith. The visit follows on from a mailing carried out by the Islamic Education Board of the World Federation in December 2004. IEB sent a pack of books as Islamic "Christmas gifts" to churches and universities all over the world, and the response received

was remarkable. Several other institutions sent personalized thank you letters acknowledging the books.

Books sent to the institutions included "Love in Christianity and Islam", "Roman Catholics and Shia Muslims - Prayer, Passion & Politics", "Catholics and Shia in Dialogue - Studies in Theology and Spirituality" and "Jesus through Shi'ite narrations".

To purchase a copy of these books
or for more information
email: ieb@world.federation.org

The Nakuru Summer Camp 2004

Youth from various jamaats in East Africa came together for a dynamic, educational, action-packed retreat set in the Rasul-al Akram Academy of Nakuru in December 2004. Organised by the Dar-es-Salaam Tabligh Sub Committee with assistance from the Africa Federation, Nakuru Camp 2004 succeeded a series of previous Nakuru camps providing exploration, sport, spirituality, and study for both boys and girls within their segregated timetables and facilities.

Blessed with eminent scholars such as Sheikh Dr. Murtadha Alidina, Sheikh Shahnawaz Mahdavi, Mrs. Batul Najafi and Mrs. Sajeda Alidina, the 2004 campers received stimulating



Girls at the Nakuru Summer camp 2004



Boys at the Nakuru Summer camp 2004

lectures in areas of Quranic commentary, Islamic belief, akhlaq, Islamic ideology and Islamic jurisprudence. Studies of the more conventional Islamic subjects were balanced by discussion of secular and contemporary issues such as Khoja history, marriage, social issues, Muslim current affairs and career guidance.

The success of the Nakuru camp lay in its multi-dimensional nature – it nurtured social and interpersonal development, promoted Islamic behaviour, addressed relevant issues, and challenged Muslim youth to debate, question, probe and learn.

For more information or for the whole report, visit
[www.world-federation.org/Secretariat/Articles/
report_nakuru_summer_camp_2004.htm](http://www.world-federation.org/Secretariat/Articles/report_nakuru_summer_camp_2004.htm)



IEB forms Media Monitoring Group (MMG)

The Islamic Education Board (IEB) of the World Federation has created the Media Monitoring Group (MMG), which will be responsible for examining various media outputs on issues related to Islam and to bring accurate depictions of the religion to the public.

MMG will monitor various forms of media – newspapers, TV, radio and online sources. The initial focus of the team will be on the UK media, however, if more resources become available, the group aims to expand the focus onto the international media as well.

Ever since the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001, Muslims in the UK continue to come under great scrutiny. Certain parts of the media have at times been scathing about Islam, often publishing incorrect facts.

The IEB does not want to duplicate the excellent work performed by other organisations who reply to the media. The group recognizes this is an ongoing effort, and wants to build on it and add our community's voice. As a religious organisation, the World Federation feels that religion is its area of expertise and thus responses will focus on this angle, rather than the political perspective.

IEB launch Madrasah Teachers Training Online

The Islamic Education Board of the World Federation, in collaboration with the Madrasah Teacher Training Institute (MTTI) in Toronto, has launched the first ever training of madrasah teachers using the Internet.

The launch forms part of an objective of the Islamic Religious Education Co-ordinator (IREC) to institute teachers' training of our Muallims worldwide. Negotiating with the already established and renowned MTTI, WF-IEB funded the web casting of the regular lectures from Toronto.

It is the hope of MTTI and WF-IEB that more Muallims worldwide will make use of this program to sharpen their teaching skills. Lectures are delivered by experts in their fields, most of them with community Madrasah experience. The topics and workshops have been designed to make teaching fun – when teachers have fun teaching, students have fun learning.

For further information,
email: ieb@world-federation.org

IEB GCSE Education Group meet Edexcel Religious Studies representative

The Islamic Education Board of the World Federation (IEB) GCSE Education Group met with Mr. David Ansell of Edexcel Religious Studies at Dar al Tableegh on 5 March 2005 in London. In a very fruitful meeting, Mr. Ansell provided information on many areas of the GCSE initiative and suggested some of the ways forward.



IEB GCSE Education Group in discussions with Mr. David Ansell of Edexcel Religious Studies



Mr Ansell signs the Dar al Tableegh guest book

The IEB team agreed with Mr. Ansell on a three-point action plan:

1. Administrative support: IEB Edexcel team will maintain consistent contact with Mr. Ansell, who will provide information on registering as an examination centre and will advise the IEB on student registration issues.
2. Curriculum development: IEB will provide Edexcel with a set of concerns they feel need to be addressed by the curriculum committee. IEB also will submit a series of recommended books.
3. Training INSET courses and examiners: IEB will encourage resident alims and madrasah teachers instructing GCSE to apply for examiner status, and Mr. Ansell will provide details. Edexcel would assist in organising training sessions for our teachers via INSET courses.

The IEB would like to thank Mr. Ansell for taking the time to visit Dar al Tableegh, and looks forward to working with Mr. Ansell and his team in the future.

For further information,
Email: ieb@world-federation.org



Investment Banker Triples ZCSS Contribution by Using Company 'Donation Scheme'

A London Banker has taken advantage of his companies 'Charity Donation Scheme', which is providing extra money to ZCSS – for free! A large number of companies will match donations to selected charitable organisations with corporate funds, simply by asking you to fill out a form.

How does it work?

If you as an employee decide to donate GBP£10 a month to ZCSS, this will be automatically deducted from your payslip. As ZCSS is a registered charity, your employer will match this donation and sometimes (depending on company) double your contribution. Therefore, with your initial contribution of GBP£10 per month – ZCSS will receive GBP £30 per month at no extra cost to you!

Can you help ZCSS? Visit your Human Resources (HR) department to see if your company has a matching gift program, and to determine ZCSS's eligibility.

To donate & help us pursue excellence, visit: www.world-federation.org/zcss or Email: zcss@world-federation.org

Iranian Hawza representative visits World Federation at Dar al Tableegh

The World Federation received a visit from Agha Mahdavi Pur at Dar al Tableegh, on Saturday 12th March 2005, in London. Agha Mahdavi Pur is the representative of the Iranian Hawza's Department of Colleges and Universities, whose responsibility is to focus on institutions outside Iran. The department has been very successful in establishing schools, colleges, and specialist Quranic institutes all over the world.

In the meetings, he briefed the Office Bearers of the World Federation on the works done by his department in China, Africa, and the Far East. He highlighted how they have attracted many people to the Jaffari Madhab through these centres. He also alluded to the excellent ties he has made with the authorities in these countries.

In specific discussions with the IEB, he suggested some ways the World Federation could work with his department, especially on initiatives of education in East Africa. He praised the progress of our community in East Africa and highlighted some of the important areas needing attention for the development of Tableegh and education.

For further information,
Email: ieb@world-federation.org

IEB holds Radio Training Workshop

During the last six years, the Islamic Education Board (IEB) of the World Federation has successfully broadcast a daily morning programme on Spectrum Radio AM 558. With coverage across the UK, the show attracts over 70,000 listeners daily. This is highlighted by the regular feedback received from both Muslims and non-Muslims.



Zahid Khimji introducing the day's proceedings

With the vision to expand and strengthen the radio broadcast further, a Radio Training Workshop was organised on Saturday 29 January 2005 at Dar al Tableegh, London. Sixteen participants including dhakirs, hawza students, youth and experienced professionals attended the workshop.

The workshop, presented by Muallima Ummulbanin Merali, shared her experiences presenting the radio show. Mullah Muhsin Jaffer shared the history of the radio programme. IEB Chairman Sheikh Safder Jaffer presented the IEB's vision for media and the effective role of radio in achieving this.

Effective tableegh is about the audience and what you can give it. This is achieved by visualizing a discourse with the audience as individuals rather than masses. Our attitudes



Muallima Ummulbanin conducting the workshop

are often reactive or rigid in presentations. Getting over media manipulation and presenting Islam as taught by Prophet Muhammed (SAW) – using a soft, caring approach overflowing with Rahma – is required for success.

Dr. Amene Mawla delivered her advice to budding radio presenters from the perspective of a seasoned listener of five years. Br. Mehdi Hasan, an Oxford graduate working for Granada TV said, "I found the day to be well-structured and comprehensive whilst the informal environment maximized the learning. I look forward to being involved with this project."

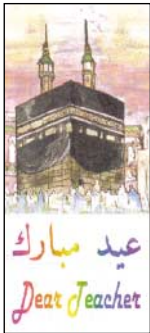
The IEB has recently formed a Media Team that will focus on the agenda within this sphere.

IEB's radio programme can be heard daily at 7.30 am on Spectrum Radio on AM 558 in the UK, or online at: www.spectrumradio.net

If you would like further details of IEB's tableegh activities through the media, contact: ieb@world-federation.org



Young Madrasah Student Pays Tribute to His Teacher by Helping ZCSS

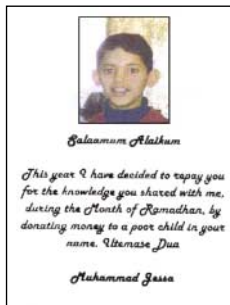


Br. Muhammad Jessa, a young student from London, was inspired by his madrasah teacher and has decided to honour him by sponsoring a ZCSS student in his name. This kind act of generosity is a thank-you gesture for the knowledge and teaching he received during the Holy Month of Ramadhan. Having learnt so much from his teacher, Muhammad has decided to share the gift of knowledge by using his pocket money to sponsor an eight-year old schoolgirl in India.

Sponsoring a ZCSS student in the name of a friend, family or marhum is an ideal gift. Not only does it derive countless blessings from Allah (SWT), but it also contributes to a new life for a child who can receive the education they deserve. This will enable them to realise their potential and succeed in life.

The "ZCSS Gift" is a beneficial gift for the benefactor and the student: the donor receives divine blessings, the person in whose honour the sponsorship was placed receives divine praises and, most importantly, the child who has been sponsored receives the gift of knowledge.

If you would like to deliver the ZCSS Gift as a tribute to someone or if you need further information,
Email: zcass@world-federation.org



Outstanding ZCSS Student receives Academic Accolades from the President of India

Sister Sufia Askari, who is a Zanabiyya Child Sponsorship Scheme (ZCSS) Higher Education student, has achieved academic excellence after receiving the highest mark in her final MBBS examinations at the Patna Medical School, India. A presentation ceremony at the university was organised in her name to celebrate this remarkable success and accomplishment, with the guest, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam.

The President presented Sister Sufia with the Gold Medal of Excellence for graduating with the highest First Class degree in medicine. In addition to this prize, she also received a Silver Shield for obtaining the highest marks in Physiology as well as a gift of 10,000 rupees.

This extraordinary performance is a testimony of the exceptional potential and success that can be unlocked by ZCSS with the generous financial support from sponsors. Not only does Higher Education Sponsorship provide the gift of knowledge to the thousands of underprivileged students, it also is an invaluable investment for the future of our community. All it takes is a contribution of GBP £500 (per annum for three years), which is enough to support a student for a whole year at university and give them the chance to fulfil their dreams and ambitions. Be inspired to make a difference to the lives of other willing, capable and highly motivated students.

For further information,
www.world-federation.org/zcss
or Email: zcass@world-federation.org

Report on the World Federation Marriage Training Programme held in Orlando, USA

The Women's Desk of the World Federation, in collaboration with NASIMCO, held a three-day training programme on matrimonial preparation for 'Marriage Educators' in Orlando, USA, from 18-20 December 2004. The seminar was hosted by the Hussein Islamic Center of Orlando is part of the action plan for the revival of the World Federation Marriage Advisory Council, and is similar to the Pilot Training Programme held on 28-30 May 2004 in Milton Keynes, UK.

The course was run jointly by Islamic lecturers and distinguished professionals of the National Institute of Relationship Enhancement. Around 26 representatives from different North American jamaats attended the programme. The aim of the seminar was to enable delegates to acquire pre-marriage guidance skills to help couples prepare themselves before embarking on a new life together.

On the last day, the delegates from North America gathered with the Women's Desk coordinators to discuss the future road map of the World Federation Marriage Advisory Council, which is in its early formation stages. The delegates agreed to work out an action plan and develop a team whereby all NASIMCO jamaats would work together to bring pre-marriage guidance to each Khoja Shia Ithna ashari community in North America.

Mr. Rob Scuka, Ph.D., commended the enthusiasm of the participants. He said, "The Khoja Shia are a very tightly knit community. The warmth and spirit in this community was palpable and inspiring. For me, this turned out to be one of the most personally rewarding Relationship Enhancement trainings I have ever had the privilege to lead."



Attendees of the seminar listen intently during the sessions

For further information,
email: womensdesk@world-federation.org



The Marriage Contract Seminar Report

Sister Mubina Mavani, in conjunction with support from the Islamic Education Board, will develop a marriage contract guideline for our communities throughout the world taking local legal issues into consideration. The move comes after she presented a paper on a marriage contract at the 3rd Executive Council meeting.

For further information, please contact:
marriagecontract@world-federation.org

www.khojamatch.com

The international matchmaking website co-ordinated by the Women's Desk was formally launched on 19 September 2004 at all jamaats worldwide.

To register as a matchmaker or to look for a spouse, click on:
www.khojamatch.com

and for further information,
Email: womensdesk@world-federation.org



Senior Advisory Board's Annual Report 2004

The Senior Advisory Board (SAB) of the World Federation of KSMC has published its annual report for 2004.

SAB achievements of 2004 include various projects to meet the spiritual, educational, housing, medical, cultural and social needs of seniors in Khoja communities worldwide. The Hajj Niyabah program pioneered in November 2004, and plans for a widely distributed 'Financial Asset Management and Will Strategy' package are intended to enable seniors to fulfil basic religious obligations. SAB has launched financial assistance drives to fundraise for the provision of blankets to seniors in deprived communities, housing projects for seniors of more financially secure communities in Karachi, Milton-Keynes and Toronto. SAB also organised a hugely successful Senior Citizens' Summer Retreat at Mountain Springs Lodge Resort in Collingwood, Ontario.

SAB recognises that contact, communication and networking allow continued addressing of multiple needs. One of the board's most valuable achievements are the launches of the SAB newsletter, 'Senior Insight,' in January 2005 and a seniors database to facilitate smoother coordinated implementation of strategies. Future projects include an annual medical screening program for senior citizens, and the creation of an Islamic Medical Ethics Network. May Allah (SWT) grant them success in all future endeavours.

Seniors assist at the World Federation Office

The World Federation is blessed with the active senior citizen members of the London jamaat at Stanmore who regularly offer their services to the secretariat. At least four times a year, senior community members come for 10 days at a time to pack for the mail shots, when more 5,200 envelopes have to be packed ready for collection by the postal service.



Seniors packing the mail shots

The seniors who are most regular and active at the secretariat are Murabbi Abdulhusein Hassanali, Murabbi Akber Sumar, Murabbi Aliaskar Alihassan, Murabbi Mohamed Daya, Murabbi Sultan Govani and Murabbi Sultan Ahmed Karim.

It is a great pleasure to have them at the secretariat and we are very thankful for their continuous support. May Allah (SWT) protect our murabbis around the world so they may guide the community forward.

SAB visit to India identifies the needs of the seniors

Continent by continent, the Seniors Advisory Board (SAB) of the World Federation is making headway in its endeavours to explore the wide range of needs of our Shia Ithna Asheri senior citizens around the world and serve them better. SAB has started to identify some of the pressing needs of our elders in the regions of Kutch and Gujarat, India.

In March 2005, Ramzanalibhai Dhanji visited the KSMC jamaats of Kutch and Gujarat. The aim was to inform the jamaats of the SAB's goals and objectives stated in the five-year Strategic Plan, highlight the work that SAB has done so far and gain a better understanding of the needs of the seniors in those regions.

In Kutch and Gujarat, Ramzanalibhai visited our jamaats in Bhuj, Mundra, Kera and Nangalpur, Morbi, Malya, Bhavnagar, Rajula, Mahuva, Talluja and Ahmdabad, where he was warmly welcomed. In his address, Ramzanalibhai emphasized the importance of establishing a senior citizens group in each community. With the support of the Councils of Kutch and Gujarat, SAB will be looking to appoint Regional Representatives in those territories.

For further information,
Email: sab@world-federation.org



Donation of Medical Supplies for the People of Iraq

The Medical Advisory Board of the World Federation has acquired and sent medical supplies including an ultrasound machine, printer, and an ECG machine, to Iraq following a personal appeal by Ayatullah Ali Al-Seestani. Our Marja is a patron of the Diabetic Centre in Baghdad, where specialised treatment is provided to patients suffering from diabetes, including complication in the eyes.

The MAB has also sent a consignment of urgently required medicines and equipment to Al-Alwiya Maternity Teaching Hospital in Baghdad, which reached them on 28 October 2004. The consignment included two infant incubators, an ultrasound scanner machine, transfusion sets, operating theatre equipments, and a large supply of essential lifesaving medicines. All these were presented as gifts from the World Federation to the people of Iraq.

The consignment was received with great excitement and enthusiasm. The equipments, considered a standard item in



An incubator in use

hospitals in the West, are found lacking within the Iraqi healthcare system. The medical director who received the consignment wrote to our Iraq aid organiser confirming that all the supplies were received safely. He said, "I would like to thank Allah (SWT) for making the shipment successful, and we would like to thank the World Federation for their endless help to us and to our people in Iraq."

For further information, please Email
mab@world-federation.org

Our Volunteers ... Our Life Blood



Br. Abbas Kanji - a valued World Federation volunteer

Some would say the rigors of corporate America provide ample preparation for any number of tasks and challenges. Yet Br. Abbas Kanji's role on the World Federation's new strategic planning committee has opened him to new people and the prospect of taking part in a worldwide initiative.

"Throughout my professional experiences I never had an opportunity to participate in a truly global team which

contained such diversity of backgrounds," he said. "My experience with the World Federation taught me how to appreciate [our group's] diversity and coordinate the logistics of working in a team whose members are scattered around the globe."

As part of "Creating Futures Together 2003-2008," Br. Abbas has found an outlet for his impressive academic and professional experiences.

He currently works for a commercial real estate investment firm in Dallas, Texas, where he is responsible for purchasing commercial real estate including office buildings and shopping centers on behalf of a high net worth individual. A graduate of Northwestern University in Chicago and the Harvard Business School in Boston, Abbas is leveraging his background as a management consultant advising Fortune 500 companies on their strategic vision and goals.

"The opportunity to channel some of the education and experiences I've been fortunate to have into the improvement of my own community excites me tremendously," he said.

Despite the challenges in juggling professional responsibilities with his World Federation work, and the great distance separating committee members, Br. Abbas enjoys the sense of camaraderie he feels with fellow volunteers.

"I genuinely believe that the World Federation is the only global organization that represents my community - the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri community," he said. "I have made amazing friends around the globe."

In addition to establishing new friendships, Abbas feels his volunteerism has grown and strengthened his personal and professional network.

Still, he is candid about the changes needed within the organization. "Looking ahead I think it will be challenging for the World Federation to instill a sense of accountability among its volunteer staff," he said. "The workforce of the World Federation is dominated by dedicated volunteers who have other full-time jobs and personal commitments that take up most of their time," which affects the speed at which tasks are completed.

For now, though, Abbas remains hopeful he can provide a lasting contribution to forward-looking initiatives. The committee is already setting a course to put long-term benefits into action with the development of a strategic planning document. "I think time will tell how effectively the World Federation executes the strategic plan," he said.

"The team's visionary outlook aims to ensure the organization implements a rigorous planning process, and embraces a culture of accountability and professionalism."

The World Federation sincerely welcomes volunteers to come forward and provide their services for the advancement of our community.

For more information on how you can help,
Email: Secretarait@world-federation.org



IRAQ RELIEF - A helping hand for the people of Iraq

The term 'Iraq Relief' has come to symbolise the great efforts that The World Federation has undertaken in its aims of serving the Iraqi population. Iraq Relief has been particularly active with two high-profile appeals that have united the jamaats globally in its aims and efforts – the Iraq Relief Orphan Fund and the Iraq Relief Aeinullah Eye Clinic in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq.

Iraq Relief Orphan Fund

The World Federation received a proposal by Syed Nasr Al Battat, a representative of Ayatullah Seestani, for the Iraq Relief Orphan Fund, which was launched with the aim of assisting and supporting approximately 300 orphans, living in Baghdad for an academic year of 9 months at a rate of GBP£25 per month per student. The money raised was to be used to pay for the schooling expenses, food and medication of these orphans in Sadr City, an extremely poor district of the capital, ensuring the young orphans are given a good start in life and taught the essential skills such as literacy and numeracy so that they will have a brighter future.

The response to the appeal was truly global, with fundraising in Jamaats from North America to Australia. After hearing about the appeal, the students of Az-Zahra Madressa of New Jersey pledged to raise USD \$10,000 by creating homemade items such as flower pens, bookmarks, audio CDs and chocolate lollipops for sale in their neighbourhoods and schools. The students took their fundraising efforts as far New York and then, extended them to the Allentown, Pennsylvania. Other fundraising effort involved selling wristbands with the inscription "Salam - Peace", an idea that has helped raise awareness amongst Muslims and non-Muslims alike.



A team of girls making collections at a London mainline station

The highlight of the fundraising was undoubtedly a London-wide day of fundraising in which nearly 250 youth from across the UK collected for the Orphan Fund at 40 Underground Stations, 10 British Rail Stations and several prominent shopping centres, raising over GBP£16,000 in a single day and doubling the previous World Federation total for a one day collection. The fundraising event helped unite youth of various communities, nationalities, religions and ethnic origins, and attracted significant media interest, including coverage by the BBC. By the grace of the Allah (SWT), the target of GBP£70,000 was reached and the Orphan Fund Appeal was closed towards the end of March 2005. May Allah (SWT) reward all those who worked tirelessly to achieve this impressive feat in aid of the orphans of Baghdad

Iraq Relief Aeinullah Eye Clinic Fund

The second Iraq Relief appeal is a joint collaboration between the Medical Advisory Board and the Youth Network Desk of the World Federation, aimed at raising GBP£40,000 for the construction of an Aeinullah Eye Clinic in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq.

After 2 months of active fundraising, the response from around the UK has been incredible. Through an innovative Charities Day held in May 2005, the students and teachers of Zainabiya Madrasah, Milton Keynes, UK, raised a record sum of over GBP£3,500 for the Aeinullah Eye Clinic in Sadr City.

In London and Birmingham, the characteristic baby-blue wristbands have recently been on sale to raise money for the Eye Clinic; the wristbands have proved a huge success and more are being produced to be sold all over the UK.

Youths across the UK have found innovative methods to raise funds for this project. For example, 10 runners participated at the British 10K Race (a fantastic 6.2 miles) on the 2nd of July 2005; and raised money through sponsorship.

Let us pray to Allah (SWT) to grant us the opportunity to serve the community, and that all those who have assisted in these two noble, grand causes are rewarded in this life and the hereafter. Ameen.



Donations being counted up after a hard day collecting

In Melbourne Australia, the Panjatan Youth organised a fundraising cricket match between the Panjatan Society Youth and the Panjatan Society Seniors. Despite the sweltering heat on the day of the event, participants played the best of three 12-over games. The first two games were won by each team leading to a final showdown, in which the seniors won by 2 runs. The event succeeded in raising GBP£500 towards this noble cause.

The renowned online forum for Shia Muslims around the world, Shiachat.com, succeeded in raising a total of USD \$2,200 after webmaster Br. Ali Albahrani initially suggested the idea. The site was overwhelmed by the positive and generous response from its over 10,000 members, who have helped sponsor 5 Iraqi orphans for a whole year.

For further information visit www.iraqrelief.com
or email: ynd@world-federation.org
or mab@world-federation.org



Tsunami relief - Efforts help victims reclaim livelihood

The tsunami that struck on 26 December 2004 devastated the coastal belts of almost every country around the Indian Ocean, destroying lives, properties and livelihoods. After a thorough assessment and within only three days of the disaster, the World Federation launched a relief effort aimed at providing victims of the tsunami with means to regain their livelihood. Through a grassroots effort, WF representatives in communities throughout the world contacted agencies, individuals, and communities in East Africa, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand to assess the particular needs of these regions and to enact relief programs. As a result, WF was able to provide the victims with assistance to regain their livelihoods within three weeks of the disaster.



Br Husnain Yusufali & Br Ehsaan Faraji at the lunch fundraiser

The efforts of dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and committed communities were invaluable in producing the successful results of the relief effort, which has provided hundreds of individuals with the means to sustain themselves again. WF thanks all the participants of this relief effort for their hard work: those in the field who have visited the victims, consoled them and identified the assistance needed, those in the donor jamaats who went out of their way to raise funds from within and without the community, the madrasa children whose fund-raising drives have been heart-rendering, and the dedicated youth who went far and wide to raise substantial funds.

Tsunami Relief Reports from regions

India: In the village of Machilipatnam, in Andhra Pradesh, 24 villagers whose groundnut farms were destroyed have been given assistance to restart planting.

In the Forshore Estate, a suburb in Chennai, South India that was affected by the tsunami 11 small vendors and kiosk businesses have been assisted in getting new equipment and stock to restart their ventures.



Dr Ahmed Hassam with survivors being trained as carpenters

Thailand: In the fishing village of Ranong, 30 fishermen whose boats were damaged, have been provided with the means to repair their boats in order to resume their work.

In the Phang-gna province of Thailand, 75 families in the Ban Nairai village and 35 families in Ban Paktriam have been identified for assistance. While local centres provided immediate relief, the WF contributed financial assistance to 27 fishermen to repair their boats, 110 families to rebuild their floating baskets and restock their breeding baskets.

Sri Lanka: In Hambantota, 5 orphans were resettled and 14 women, mostly widows, were assisted in gaining the means to earn a living by tailoring or cooking, important for the town's tourist industry.

10 widows and women in need of assistance in the villages of Kinniya and Mathur were given permanent homes and industrial sewing machines to assist them for independent work opportunities.

In Kirinda, 20 families, including orphans, widows, and fisherman, were assisted in receiving housing and repair work for their boats and fishing baskets. Relief efforts have also been planned for Aceh, Indonesia, and the Maldives.

Tsunami Relief Responses from communities:

New York: The Dua-e-Tawasul Group and Youths For Excellence of New York raised a total of USD \$5,000 for the Tsunami victims, most of which was collected through email appeals to communities at large. In addition, the youth collected and donated 70 bags of goods to Al-Hikmah mosque, an Indonesian Islamic Center in NY, which will ship these to Banda Ache, Indonesia.

Austin, TX: The Youth Group of the Islamic Ahlul Bayt Association in Austin, TX, collected USD\$3,000 at their Tsunami Fundraiser. Despite the frigid, wet weather, Muslims and non-Muslims came to contribute and show support for the cause.

Peterborough: The Hussein Youth of Peterborough Jamaat raised GBP£1,000 for the tsunami victims. Despite the cold weather, volunteers, including youth of the jamaat and some Christian friends, participated in a day-long street collection in the City Center.

Birmingham: The Abbasi Youth Committee of Birmingham gathered 75 volunteers from their jamaat, aided by youth from Leicester and Peterborough, to carry out a street collection for the Tsunami victims. They raised a total of GBP £8,200.

Funds were received from the following jamaats and community organizations:

Africa Federation, Allentown Jamaat, Birmingham Jamaat, Council of European Jamaats, Dubai Jamaat, Hujjat Saturday Workshop (Stanmore), Hussaini Islamic Mission (Hounslow), Imam Hasan Center (Sydney), Islamic Ahlul Bayt Association (Austin, TX), Islamic Humanitarian Service (Kitchener), Leicester Jamaat, Los Angeles Jamaat, Stanmore Ladies Senior Citizens, and Wessex Jamaat.

The World Federation extends great appreciation to all these organizations and countless other donors and volunteers for their generous assistance in these relief efforts.

For further information,
Email: ynd@world-federation.org



Your opportunity to give a HELPING HAND

Islamic Education Board (IEB):

Alim Fund: Provides support to Jamaats for the services of capable resident Alims to meet the spiritual needs of our communities.

Hawza Sponsorship Fund: Sponsors students for a range of courses to lead Hawza in Qum for both male and female students.

Hawza Students Fund (Tullab Fund): Provides support to the students who are currently studying in Hawza.

Madrasah Fund: Providing support to the madrasahs ensuring that it is equipped to meet the needs of the students in the present day.

Publications & Audio-visual Funds: Provides for the translation, publication, and marketing of publications for the spiritual upliftment of our community and humanity in general.

Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme (ZCSS)

School Sponsorship: Students are sponsored for a period of 1 to 14 years for their educational studies, at £10 a month

Higher Education: The last bridge to self-sufficiency is a University education. The cost of sponsoring a university undergraduate is £500 annually.

Yatim and Asir Sponsorship Scheme: A new section aimed at providing education to the growing number of Muslim children who have been afflicted by war, the orphans and the refugees. Cost is £13 month.

Medical Advisory Board (MAB):

Individual treatment: Involved in treating patients by providing financial assistance to community members who cannot afford treatment.

Primary Health Care / Aeinullah Eye Clinics: Involved in providing healthcare for slum dwellers, the poor and the needy of India by opening Aeinullah Eye Clinics/Hospitals and Zainabiya Health Centres in Bangalore, Patna and Lucknow, providing urgently needed basic primary healthcare.

Health Screening: Embarked on health screening programmes with the Pirhai, Mehfil-e-Murtaza and Hyderabad Jamaats, India.

Medical Relief: Assists the poor, needy, and destitute refugees of Iraq. Relief efforts include addressing the needs of our brothers who have been great affected by the war, by providing instruments and medicines.

Sister organisations: Assistance is provided to dispensaries & hospitals in Africa, India & Pakistan acquiring essential medical equipment.

Career Training Advisory and Education Board (CETAB):

Support for students: Dedicated to providing the educational development support in order to ensure that all University students are able to enhance their education careers and build successful futures. The program provides service loan schemes, a dedicated Student Support Network (SSN), career-related advice, mentoring programmes and professional networking gatherings.

Senior Advisory Board (SAB):

Hadith-e-Kisa Blanket Drive - "Spread the Warmth" Campaign: Raising funds to purchase warm blankets for seniors around the world who are suffering (and in some cases dying) from the cold weather simply because they cannot afford to buy blankets for the freezing winter nights. The cost of each blanket is approximately CND \$10.

The Womens Desk (WD):

Dedicated to provide support and assistance to the women within the worldwide communities.

The Youth Network Desk (YND):

Dedicated to the upliftment of the youth with several projects & activities to engage the youths of our community worldwide.

WF Sadr City Eye Clinic Appeal

- ☐ Providing front line care for thousands of people
- ☐ Build a state-of-the art Eye Clinic in Sadr City
- ☐ Full medical equipment
- ☐ Treatment on all major eye diseases
- ☐ Self-sustaining - only a set-up fee needed

IRAQRELIEF.ORG

Other relief and welfare funds, as well as contributions like Sadaqa, Qurbani, Radde Mazalim, Zakaat and Khums can also be made at the World Federation website: **www.world-federation.org**. Click on the "Donate now" button to donate online.

The success of these vital activities can only be achieved by your contributions. Please donate generously.

We would greatly appreciate any donations/contributions.

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Postcode: _____

Currency type: £ ☐ \$ ☐ _____ ☐

Currency form: ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque
☐ Postal Order

Amount:

☐ 10 ☐ 25 ☐ 50 ☐ Other _____

☐ I am a UK tax payer and want World Federation to claim Gift Aid on this donation

Donate online on **www.world-federation.org** or please make cheques payable to
'The World Federation of KSIMC' Islamic Centre, Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4LQ, UK



Publications Page

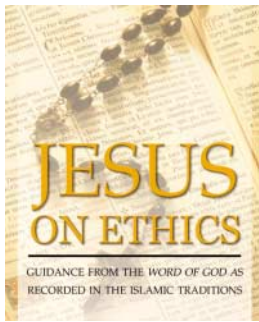
Over the past 25 years, in its endeavours to enhance knowledge and awareness of Islam within our community and the greater population, the Islamic Education Board (IEB) has been blessed to publish many titles in various fields of Islamic studies.

The IEB has launched a new website, which features IEB hardback, audio and visual publications in various formats, and contains information on forthcoming publications and tentative projects. Please visit the website:

www.ieb.world-federation.org

A plethora of literature has seen publication in the year 2005. Some of our latest publications are highlighted here under.

Jesus on Ethics - An Islamic introduction to Jesus

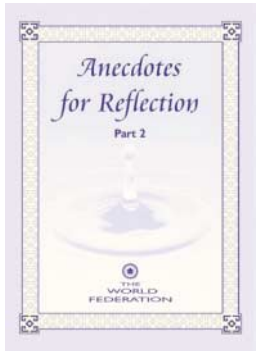


This enlightening and informative new book presents the reader with 40 ahadith of the ethical and moral teachings of the revered Prophet Isa (Jesus), introducing him from the perspective of Islam. The book offers its readers an opportunity to reacquire themselves with Islamic teachings about Prophet Isa (AS), in hope of inspiring better relations between Muslims and Christians.

The book indicates a link between the message taught by Prophet Isa (AS) and their resonance in the narrations of the House of the Prophet (SAW).

GBP £3 / USD \$6.

Anecdotes for Reflection; Part II

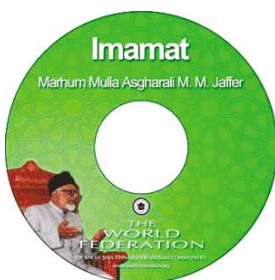


Written by Sayyid Ali Sadaqat, this book is the 2nd of a 5-part series on Islamic morals and ethics, containing 100 short stories of benefit to all segments of the community. The short anecdotes presented in this series display the noble, moral and ethical teachings of the Prophet and the Imams and the reflection of these teachings in the lives of the Imams and their devoted followers. It is through these stories of the trials and

tribulations of pious leaders and followers of Islam that we find a source of guidance to strengthen our own Iman.

GBP£3 / USD \$6.

Lectures on Imamat - on CD



Marhum Mulla Asghar's lectures on Imamat are a must-have for every knowledge seeker. In this collection of 10 CDs, he has eloquently delivered an in-depth analysis on the subject of Imamat. Furthermore, some of the lectures are followed by question and answer sessions, which the listener will find most intriguing.

The CDs are currently being sold at reduced price.

GBP £15 and USD \$25
(originally GBP £20 and USD \$35)

Other WF-IEB recommended readings

- Guiding the Youth of the New Generation, by Ayatullah Murtaza Mutahhari, £3
- Islam & Religious Pluralism, by Ayatullah Murtaza Mutahhari, £5
- Anecdotes of Reflection: Part I, by Sayyid Ali Sadaqat and translated by Shahnawaaz Mahdawi, £3
- The Islamic Moral System: A Commentary of Surah al Hujarat, by Ayatullah Shaykh Mirza Ja'far, £8
- Tafsir of the Noble Qur'an: Commentary of Suratul Jinn, by A group of Muslim Scholars under the direct supervision of Ayatullah Nasir Makarim Shirazi, £5
- Al-Amaali, the Dictations of Sheikh al-Mufid translated by Mulla Asghar M.M. Jaffer, £10

The IEB also has an exciting line-up of literature for publication, including the following works:

Practical responsibilities of the Shia during Ghaybah, Weapon of the Believer, Ethical Discourses, amongst others inline for publications in 2005.

Seniors Advisory Board produces CD's

The Seniors Advisory Board has released three CDs:

Faith, Knowledge, Wisdom: This CD has a collection of 6 Gujarati lectures given by Marhum Mulla Asgharali delivered during Fajr prayers. The theme of the lectures is "Hadith-e-Kudsi".

Muharram Matam: This CD features 8 inspiring tracks of matam dedicated to Habib ibne Mazahir, one of Imam Hussein's closest companions and a martyr of Karbala.

A Tribute to Maa (Mother): This Shairi CD is a collection of 13 poems, recited by Syed Mohamed Naqvi, who is well known for his breath-taking poetry. Recorded at the SAB Senior Citizen's Retreat and inspired by Islamic traditions, the CD is spiritually enriching and features a signature shairi dedicated to mothers.

The cost per each CD is: **GBP £5 / USD \$8 and CDN \$10**

To place an order for these CD's email

sab@world-federation.org

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