



In His Name the Most High,



Salaam un alaikum,

Our October gathering coincided with the birth anniversary of our eight holy Imam, Imam Al Ridha (a.s). The program started with a Quran recitation from sister Zainab from Rasul al Akram girls Academy, she recited a few verses from Surah Ar Rahman.



We were truly honoured to have sheikh Mahdi who gave a brief talk on our Imams life and qualities. His vast and very informative speech cannot be put here but he briefly spoke and introduced our Imam, his full name was Ali Ibn Musa (as), and had the title Al-Ridha. He was born on 11th Dhulqa'ada 114 A.H and died after consuming poison given to him by Mamum Rashid. Sayyida Najma was his mother and Imam Musa al Kadhim (a.s) his father. Imam Ridha died on 29th Safar 203 A.H and is buried at Mush'ad, Iran. His lecture was translated into Swahili and English.



He mentioned how Imam played a significant role in the education of Muslims, and set an example in the way of behaving with other people in the society.

Imam was asked how one can accept the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) when he didn't perform any miracles. Imam replied "the greatest miracle of God in the human is human mind. It allows ideas to be thought through and reason out, Islam appeals to human reason and not through miracles." Ma'mun became disturbed and jealous as Imam was gaining popularity, since our beloved Imam liked grapes Ma'mun gave him poisoned grapes. Hence Imam got ill and died after 2 days. These are just very few of the lessons we learn from Imam,

> That we must honour all human beings: he used to eat with all his servants on one table, when asked he said "Allah is one".

> We must be ready to help the needy.

> Workers wage: he asked about a man who was helping and enquired how much will he be paid. They replied he'll take anything given to him, and for this he was he was upset. He said you must arrange beforehand and agree on how much you will pay him. He was also a devoted and generous person. We were then entertained with a qasida by the children from Madressatul Zahra.



They recited beautifully! Thank you Sister Rehema.

Mrs Zainab Khimji (our judge) briefed the audience on the competition and the results. Everyone did so well and all of them were winners by just taking part. The main aim of the competition was to educate ourselves and learn more about the life of Syeda Fatema Zahra (a.s). She is the role model for all women. Sister Fadhia and Sis Khadijah announced the winners with her.



Out of the 173 members in Nairobi, 73 took part. The six with highest marks were awarded prizes and certificates. The rest of participants all got a prize and certificate of participation. Seven sisters were not there to collect they were in a re-habilitation centre and Sis Husna and Sis Marium (from ABSN) went to them to give them their certificates in Kiambu. Six students out of twelve participated .They got the questionnaire through their fiqh teacher, Mrs. Rehema Yusuf and her husband. The girls were very happy to see us and so thankful for our visit.

Presentation ceremony.....







Four of the six participants who came first, second and third, two prizes for first, second and third were awarded. First were Mirfat Mbarak Mohamed and Hajar Umlai, second were Fatma Athman Mohamed and Fatma M.Ngaira and third were Khadua Ali Naqil and Yasmin Njuki Kariuki.(below)



After presentations we were entertained by the girls from Rasul Al Akram with another wonderful Qasida on Prophet Muhammad. (P.B.U.H) led by sis Nurjan Salim.



I would sincerely like to thank all the volunteers and participants for making this a great occasion, special thanks to Nushrat, Shabbir and Munawer Kassam for their contribution towards the programme. Zainab Khimji and Zahra Alimohammed for marking the papers for us, Mrs Masuma Meghji, and all the guests who came. Sister Zubeida, Sis Khadijah and sis Kawther for helping in the setting of the competition and all ABSN staff. Sis Sabiha Khimji for preparing the students for Quran recitation and qasidas.

Sis Husna delivered a baby boy on Friday 13th of November, just few days after her visit to Kiambu! We wish to congratulate her! We shall miss her for a few gatherings as she normally takes care of the kids! Yusouf Daffala (our driver) and Sheikh Mwamtunza (our teacher) have gone for Hajj. We wish them a safe journey with all others.

We will soon announce the Mujtaba children's competition winners God Willing, and have fun day for them as well. Our next gathering will be Inshallah Saturday 21st November 2009 10.30am-12.30pm. For any contribution towards this gathering please contact Sis Zahida or Sis Khadijah at the ABSN office. Some other wonderful news ABSN would also like to report is the wedding of Br Hassan from Ahlulbayt (a.s) in Uganda to Sister Saida Omar Salim. Hassan had lost both his parents whilst he was very young, and has been taken care of by well-wishers.

The Nikaah ceremony took place on October 18th 2009 in Kagoma Masjid, Wakiso District, Uganda. It was truly a wonderful event witnessed by many.



Nikaah for Saida and Hassan by Sheikh Hussein Awalli



Picture gallery.....



A tearful bride's mother.....



Hassan with Br Shabbir





Congratulations are in order.....



We wish the couple all the best and may Allah (swt) always guide them.

Thought for the month, "think of the things people have done that made your day, and make a point of doing those same things for others....Mrs. N.Karim ABSN"

