



# Rocket Science



Rabiul Awal /  
Rabiul Thani 1434

February 2013

*In the name of  
Allah, most  
Gracious, most  
Merciful*

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*see advert page  
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*Connect2Sports*

## YMWA's road ahead in 2013

Alhamdulillah! Another exciting year has come to an end following our latest event of the year 2012, the 'Cultural Integration camp' at Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre. YMWA's strategic meeting took place in early January to plan new and exciting social events for 2013, as well as plan the return of previous, successful events. Insha Allah, some of these events will include a quiz night, a movie night, a talent quest, a pool and sports day at Zayed College for Girls, paintballing and long-term projects to be implemented.

Most of these ideas have come from suggestions the YMWA team have taken into consideration from members, youth and community. The YMWA team hope that these events will benefit every Muslimah in the community, as well as fulfil their expectations. To find out more about the strategic plans for the YMWA or to register your interest, email the YMWA on [ymwa.nz@gmail.com](mailto:ymwa.nz@gmail.com) and get involved today! We look forward to your continued support.

### YMWA youth ambassadors

YMWA youth ambassadors are selected annually to be leaders at their respective schools, to cater better for the needs of Muslim girls not only within their school, but also within the community, while representing the YMWA. Twelve young girls have been chosen from the 'Cultural integration' summer camp 2012 as this year's youth ambassadors, and we have no doubt that they will do a wonderful job in representing the YMWA, as well as enhance their leadership skills. The meeting for these talented youth ambassadors was held on 19 January, where they were allocated YMWA mentors to help them achieve the goals they set out for 2013. As a first project by the YMWA youth ambassadors in 2013, a Pool & Sports day is being organised for 9 February.

### Sports leagues

The three-year project with Connect2Sports continues this year providing weekly badminton and soccer leagues. The YMWA hopes to develop this unique female-only environment. Already leaders have been identified and have undertaken the training for coaching. More opportunities will be presented this year to develop the leagues and an extended time period is offered making the soccer league sessions two hours instead of one.



*weekly sports*

*see advert page 3*

*30 juz*

### **Active play Muslimah project**

Alhamdulillah, this project was a great success during 2012, so we have decided to bring it back this year. This project aims to encourage young Muslimahs to participate in a variety of weekly sports and get physically active in an indoor girls-only environment where they can be comfortable. Come along and join the fun, meet new friends, gain great confidence and best of all, work your way to a healthier you! This will commence in March, insha Allah.



### **Active trampers summer series walks**

The summer series walks is YMWA's recreational activity occurring mainly during the summer, but extending occasionally during the year. We explore tramps across Auckland on journeys from rugged terrain to the soft sandy beaches. These are offered fortnightly on Sundays. YMWA's first summer series walks event for the year is on 27 January through the delightful Waitakere ranges, tramping into the Goldie Bush walkway, and reaching the breathtaking Mokoroa Falls.

### **Study circles**

YMWA's monthly study circles are turning three in April. We have had many requests for various topics to be explored this year. Insha Allah, the YMWA will be delivering quality speakers with insight and knowledge. The first study circle took place at the University of Auckland on 21 January with inspiring guest speaker Hady Osman.



### **Quran reflections**

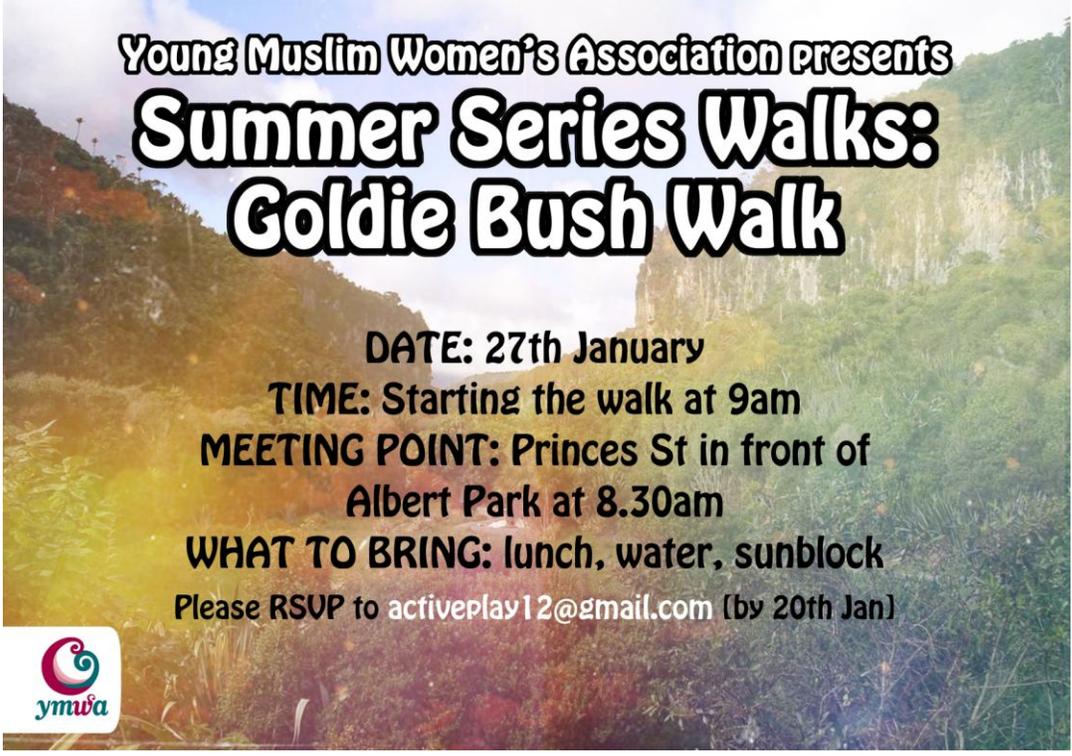
Understanding the Quran is every Muslim's responsibility. With this in mind, the YMWA has organised Quran reflection classes where we learn the meaning of each juz of the Quran as part of a 30-week project. We discuss the relevance and understand the application, stories and moral values from various tafseers. Alhamdulillah, these classes have been up and running since last year and they have generated a positive response. This year, these classes will run on a similar basis to last year and will be held at the University of Auckland. We hope that by the end of the series, the thirst for knowledge about the Quran will grow and that the participants will be inspired to pursue the tafseer of the Quran in greater detail. These classes will be conducted by Auntie Waseema.

**ymwa.nz**  
**@gmail.com**

Frequency	Activity
Weekly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quran Reflections</li><li>2. Active Play Muslimah</li><li>3. Soccer Leagues</li><li>4. Badminton Leagues</li></ol>
Fortnightly	Summer Series Walks
Monthly	Study Circles
Quarterly	YMWA Youth Ambassador Workshops
Summer Events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Sports &amp; Pool Day</li><li>2. Paintball</li><li>3. Summer camp 2013</li></ol>
Winter Events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Movie Night</li><li>2. Quiz Night &amp; Talent Quest</li></ol>

For more details of any of these events, email us on [ymwa.nz@gmail.com](mailto:ymwa.nz@gmail.com)

The Muslimah youth are looking forward to an exciting and active Islamic series in 2013. May Allah (swt) unite the Muslimah and make this year's plan a success. Ameen!



**Young Muslim Women's Association presents**  
**Summer Series Walks:**  
**Goldie Bush Walk**

**DATE: 27th January**  
**TIME: Starting the walk at 9am**  
**MEETING POINT: Princes St in front of**  
**Albert Park at 8.30am**  
**WHAT TO BRING: lunch, water, sunblock**  
Please RSUP to [activeplay12@gmail.com](mailto:activeplay12@gmail.com) (by 20th Jan)



*death and taxes*

*death in the Quran*

*life after death*

*tests*

*stages of man*

## Preparing for death and the Hereafter

US President Benjamin Franklin once said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." No one has ever doubted the reality of death. Although there are few things that all human beings have agreed on, they have never disagreed on their own mortality.

Death is mentioned in many places in the Quran. The word "death" and its related words "die, dying, dead" are found more than 160 times in the Quran. So, in the Quran, Allah (swt) has put a lot of emphasis on death. Why is it that the Quran consistently reminds believers about their own mortality when it is something that they all agree on? To understand why, we have to take a close look at some of the verses in the Quran that mention death and reflect upon them.

An often-quoted Quranic verse is: "Every soul shall taste death" (Surah Ali-Imran 3:185). The verse is clear and emphatic. The message it conveys to us is: Make no mistake about death, it is a certainty. Every soul shall taste it, no matter who they are. But consider the whole ayat: "Every soul shall taste death: And only on the Day of Judgement shall you be paid your full recompense. Only he who is saved from the Fire (Jahannam, Hell) and admitted to the Garden (Jannah, Paradise) will have succeeded. For the life of this world is but goods of deception" (Surah Ali-Imran 3:185). This verse mentions one of the important beliefs of Islam, which is that there is another life after death. Thus, for us Muslims, death is not the end; it is just the start of an everlasting life, insha Allah. The other fact that this verse also states with certainty is that the true measure of success is not in this life. Success is not having a huge sum of money, or a large family, or a prestigious job, or an impressive title, or a degree from a respected university, or a big house, or a nice car – all these are nothing but "goods of deception". The real success is to be saved from Hell fire and be admitted to Paradise.

Another verse which conveys a similar meaning is: "Every soul shall taste death. And We test you by evil and by good, by way of trial. To Us must you return" (Surah al-Anbiyaa 21:36). Again, the message is clear: everyone will die and this life is just a trial on this earth. Our faith will be tested by many things. Some people are tested by calamities, and some by the good things of this life. In the end we will return to Allah (swt) so that we will be measured according to our test results.

The whole story of each and every one of us is well summarised in these famous verses: "We created man from a quintessence of clay; then We placed him as a drop of sperm in a place of rest firmly fixed; then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood; then of that clot We made a lump; then We made, out of the lump, bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then We developed out of it another creature. So blessed be Allah, the best to create. After that, you will die. On the Day of Judgement you will be raised up again" (Surah al-Muminun 23:12-16).

This is the history of each one of us: (1) creation, (2) life, (3) death, and (4) resurrection. So we have to understand that



*before you die*

our life on this earth is just a part of the whole picture.

There is no escape from death. Allah (swt) says in the Quran, "Wherever you are, death will find you out, even if you are in towers built up strong and high" (Surah al-Nisaa 4:78). No matter how long you live, nothing will save you from death. Strong towers will not save you. The advances of science, advanced health care systems, family, friends, money, power, prestige – all of these are to no avail.

One also finds in the Quran many verses which admonish the believers about their obligations in this life before they die. Allah says, "O you who believe, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except in the state of Islam" (Surah Ali-Imran 3:102). Here, Allah commands us not to die except as Muslims. But we are never sure when death will come to us. That is why we say, "I'll do this tomorrow, insha Allah." We cannot be sure that we will be alive tomorrow. Thus, we have to be Muslims all the time. Therefore, the message is: be a Muslim today, tomorrow and forever; be a Muslim in faith and in your behaviour; be a Muslim in private and in public; be a Muslim with others and with your own self; be a Muslim when at ease and be a Muslim when in hardship. Always be in a state of Islam, in a state of seeking peace through submission and obedience to Allah, so that when death comes to you, you will be ready.

*no second chance*

The same meaning is very eloquently put in the following verse: "When death comes to one of them, he would say 'O my Lord send me back to life in order that I may work righteousness in the things I neglected.' By no means! It is just a word he says. Before them is a partition till the day they are raised up"(Surah al-Muminun 23:99-100). These verses are extremely important as they state in no uncertain terms that there is no second chance. When death comes, it is all over. If you want to do good, do it now before you are dead. If you fail to be a good Muslim in this life, you will be the eternal loser because you will not be granted a second chance. You will not be given some extra time and there are no exemptions.

*remembering death*

The references to death and the scenes of the Day of Judgement are plentiful in the Quran. If we read the Quran every day, which is the sunnah of the Prophet (saw), then it is very likely that we will read about death every day. If we follow the Quranic guidance by reflecting upon everything we read, then we will end up reflecting upon death every day. The we have to ask ourselves: why is it that Allah (swt) wants us to reflect upon death every day? The fact is that remembering death has far-reaching implications in the life of the believer. Remembering death daily transforms the whole life of a believer, and helps him to set his priorities right.

This awareness of our mortality improves the spiritual quality of the believer's prayers. The Prophet (saw) once advised us that at the start of every prayer we should treat this prayer as if it were our last prayer in this life – because one day it will be.

*prepare for death*

To sum up, death is a reality and we have to always be prepared for it. Don't assume that we will live for a long, long time. We usually think like this, especially if we are young and healthy. But this may not be true. Young people, and healthy people, die every day and for a variety of reasons. No one is too healthy to die, or too young to die, or too wealthy to die, or too powerful to die, or too famous to die.

The question that we should always ask ourselves is not whether we are going to die; it is what preparations we are making to die as good Muslims. We should always be ready; we should always struggle to improve ourselves until we become the best persons we can be.

# The slippery slope to ...

In the continuing debate about the possible legalisation of homosexual "marriage" in New Zealand, the question of polygamy has arisen. National MP for Wairarapa John Hayes claimed that legalising homosexual "marriage" would be the first step on a slippery slope to legalising polygamous marriage. The term "slippery slope" implies that polygamy is far worse, and far more to be avoided, than homosexual "marriage".

Labour Party MP Louisa Wall, who is behind the homosexual "marriage" bill, "said the argument that allowing same-sex marriage would be a stepping stone to multiple partners was undermining an otherwise civilised and principled debate."<sup>1</sup> So, let us compare homosexual "marriage" and polygamous marriage in a principled way.



Louisa Wall

## Compatibility of reproductive organs

As has been mentioned in a previous article in *Rocket Science*, homosexual "marriages" are by their very nature infertile and barren, because the two people have the same reproductive organs, rather than complementary ones. The female reproductive organ has no other purpose than to accept the male reproductive organ; they are designed for each other.

In contrast, heterosexual marriages – including polygamous ones – are fertile, because the people have compatible reproductive organs. Such marriages thus have the potential for children and the continuation of the human race.

## Countries where these are legal

The New Zealand Herald article<sup>1</sup> lists only 11 countries where homosexual "marriage" is now legal: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and Sweden. As was noted in a previous article, these are culturally western countries, highly concentrated in Western Europe and North America, with the continents of Africa (with the exception of South Africa), and Central and South America (with the exception of Argentina) largely excluded. The largest continent on earth is Asia, with the majority of the world population – over 4 billion out of a world population of 7 billion. Not a single country in Asia allows homosexual "marriage".

In contrast, Wikipedia<sup>2</sup> reports that "according to the *Ethnographic Atlas Codebook*, of 1,231 societies noted, 186 were monogamous. 453 had occasional polygyny, 588 had more frequent polygyny, and 4 had polyandry." Polygyny means one husband and more than one wife, while polyandry means one wife and more than one husband. In short, the vast majority (1,041 out of 1,231, or 85%) of the societies investigated allowed polygyny. Wikipedia lists over 50 countries where polygamy is legal, with various degrees of status.

## Length of time these have been legal

Perhaps more tellingly, the earliest country to legalise homosexual "marriage" (the Netherlands) did so only in 2001, barely a decade ago.

In contrast, polygamy has been practised since BC times.

*infertility*

*fertility*

*homosexual  
"marriage" in 11  
countries*

*polygyny in 85%  
of societies*

*one decade*

*millennia*

## Religions that allow homosexual "marriage"

The world's two major religions – Christianity and Islam – both forbid homosexual "marriage", indeed homosexuality of any kind. The textual authority for this is the story of the prophet Lot (as) and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, which is found in both the Bible and the Quran. The two cities were destroyed because of homosexuality and other sexual perversion.

**Bible**

A relevant passage from the Bible is: "Before they [Lot and two angels] had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom – both young and old – surrounded the house. They called to Lot, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.' Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, 'No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing.'" (Genesis 19:4-7).

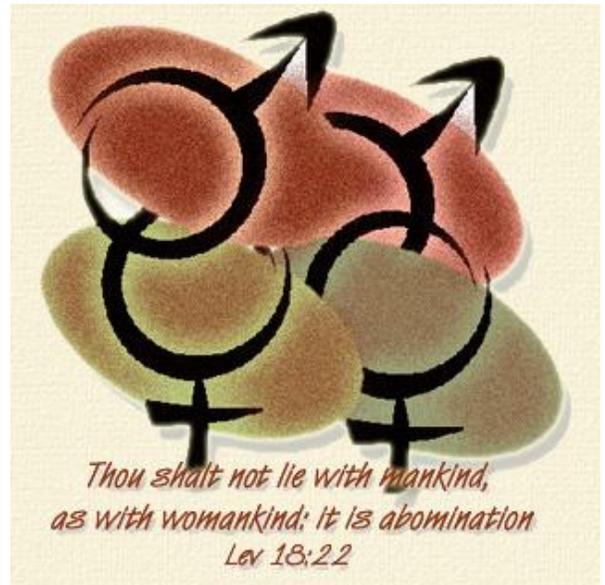
**Quran**

A relevant passage from the Quran is: "Do you approach males among the worlds and leave what your Lord has created for you as mates [ie women]? But you are a transgressing people." (Quran 26:165-6).

**Bible**

There are other passages in the Bible that prohibit homosexuality, and thus lead to it being forbidden by Christians and Jews, eg "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable." (Leviticus 18:22).

These two passages, from the Quran (26:165-6) and the Bible (Leviticus 18:22) say exactly the same thing, and could not be simpler or clearer.



Other world religions prohibit homosexuality: Baha'ism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism. Religions of India (Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism) have ambivalent views on the topic.

## Religions that allow polygamy

**Quran**

In contrast, polygyny is permitted in Islam, but within strict limits. The textual authority for this comes in a chapter entitled "Women": "And if you fear that you will not deal justly with the orphan girls, then marry those that please you of [other] women, two or three or four. But if you fear that you will not be just, then [marry only] one or those your right hand possesses. That is more suitable that you may not incline [to injustice]." (Quran 4:3). That is, a man may have up to four wives, but must treat them justly, each with their own property, assets, and dowry.

**Bible**

Although polygamy is not practised in many Christian societies nowadays, it has been practised in Christian societies in the past. Martin Luther supported it, and it is still practised by the Mormon church. Many biblical personalities had more than one wife: Abraham (Genesis 16:3), David (1 Samuel 27:3), Jacob (Genesis 32:22), Esau (Genesis 36:2-3), Solomon (1 Kings 11:3). For this reason, it has been permitted by historical Judaism.

Buddhist countries such as Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka and Tibet allow polygyny or have allowed it in their history. In ancient times, polygamy was

practised in many sections of Hindu society.

### **The alternative**

What is the alternative to homosexual "marriage"? The obvious answer is heterosexual marriage or abstinence. In this regard, it is worth noting that one of the most prominent supporters of homosexuality, Sir Elton John, was engaged to his first lover, secretary Linda Woodrow, in the late 1960s, and was actually married to German recording engineer Renate Blauel from 1984 to 1988.



(Now Sir) Elton John and Renate Blauel

What is the alternative to polygamy? If a man is, for whatever reason, not satisfied with his one wife, then, if divorce is not desired and polygamy is forbidden, the only alternative would seem to be the common practice of having a mistress to whom he is not married and who therefore has no status and few rights. Compare this with having a second wife with whom he is legally married, and who therefore has status and rights.

In Germany and Britain during and immediately after World War II, many women lamented the shortage of eligible bachelors, because of the casualties inflicted on members of the armed forces. They also lamented the fact that, in their Christian societies, they were not allowed to be the second wife of a man, preferring to be someone's second wife rather than remain unmarried.

### **Conclusion**

In short, a principled comparison between homosexual "marriage" and polygamous marriage shows the following. Polygamy is capable of producing children and is therefore essential for continuing the human race; homosexual "marriage" is not. Polygamy – in fact, polygyny – is recognised in 85% of societies; homosexual "marriage" is legal in only 11 western countries. Polygamy has been practised for centuries; homosexual "marriage" is a very recent idea, being legal in a very few countries for 12 years. Polygamy (polygyny) is sanctioned by the scriptures of major world religions; homosexual "marriage" is not. The alternative to legal polygamy is extramarital sex, which is illegal in many societies. If there is a slippery slope here, then it is homosexual "marriage" that is at the bottom of it.

1 MP slams polygamy claim on gay bill. New Zealand Herald, 10 January 2013.  
[www.nzherald.co.nz](http://www.nzherald.co.nz)

2 Wikipedia 'Polygamy' [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygamy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygamy)

*human*

*truthful*

*mercy*

*orphan*

*simple, rational  
teachings*

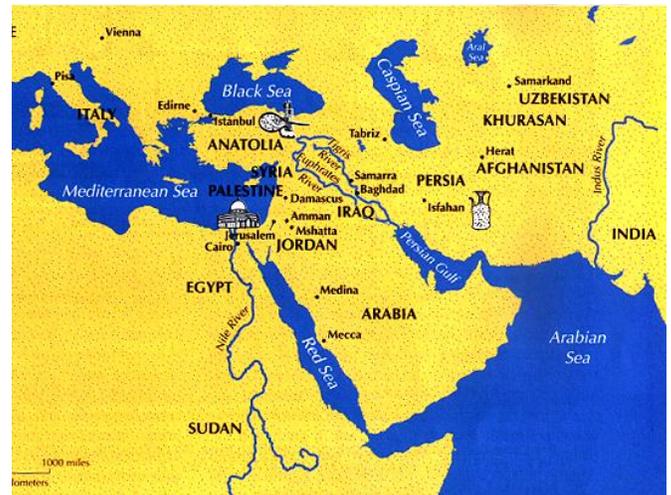
*concern for  
others*

*universal*

## In praise of Muhammad (saw)

This is the story of a man about whom the Holy Quran (18:110) says, "Say, I am a man like you." That man was Prophet Muhammad (saw). He never claimed any divinity. He considered himself a man among men. Yet he was a man in a class apart whose heart was conditioned to receive a revelation from God. More than 1,400 years ago, in a land seething with disbelief, where every citizen was held in suspicion, by sheer dint of perseverance he earned for himself the title Al Ameen (The Truthful). Allah (swt), his Creator and the One who revealed the religion of Islam through him, says, "You are sent as a mercy unto all mankind" (Quran 21:107).

He was born and raised in Makkah, that crossroads of the world that touches Africa, Asia and Europe. Situated in the southwest of Arabia (nowadays renamed Saudi Arabia), Makkah communicates with the rest of the world only across deserts. But in the sixth century, it was a great commercial centre through which caravans from the Mediterranean and the Far East passed. Interminable processions filed through the narrow streets of the city that led to the square of the Ka'aba. It was in this city that Muhammad was born in the year 570 (12<sup>th</sup> Rabi-ul Awwal, according to the Islamic lunar calendar).



Born after the death of his father Abdullah (ra), he was orphaned by the death of his mother Aminah (ra) at the age of six, and taken to the house of his uncle, Abu Talib (ra). It is true that he belonged to a noble family of Makkah, but he was in such impecunious circumstances that when he attained adulthood he had no capital to start a business of his own.

As a man, his physical needs and limitations were no different from ours. He was born of a woman, went through the questing of boyhood and youth but in an exemplary manner. He always worried over the future course of life of his fellow human beings and never stopped seeking answers to such inevitable questions as "Who am I?" "Where did I come from?" "Where am I going?"

The magnetism that drew the crowds was the simplicity and rationality of his teachings and the inherent vitality of his doctrine. The truth he preached was universal in character and application. Many men sacrificed all their comforts to obey him instantly. If not for their selfless sacrifice, Islam would never have seen the light of day. They offered themselves as martyrs so that Islam may live.

One of Prophet Muhammad's appealing traits was his concern for everyone whether high or low. He was accessible to all kinds of people. He never ignored anyone or turned his face against anyone.

The common people heard his preaching gladly. He spoke their language – simple, forthright and familiar. He explained his mission to all. His outlook was universal, and transcended all the artificial barriers and distinctions of language, lineage and locality. His life-giving message was not intended for the

*taqwa*

*invisible God*

*darul Arqam*

*illiterate*

*role model*

*family man*

Arabs alone; it was addressed to the whole world. In fact his greatest saying "No Arab is superior to an Ajami (non-Arab) nor an Ajami superior to an Arab. Superiority is founded only on piety" stands tall in the realm of the equality of races.

His concept of God was to be pure and cleansed of every local particularity. The worship of idols was replaced by the supremacy of the one true God, whose reign was all the more amazing as the God of Islam was invisible and hidden from the eyes of those who worshipped Him in all humility and with all possible solemnity.

At first he preached his mission in the house of Arqam. When some of the brave warriors joined his fold, they encouraged him to come out into the open. At long last he ventured to present himself to the people in the Ka'aba. Deeply touched by the poetic beauty of his language, some of his countrymen stopped and listened.



He proclaimed all to be children of a single God, equals in the face of His omnipotence and charity. They must help one another, share their goods and return to the simple lives of their forbears. All hierarchy that debased the common people was denounced. There were to be no priests of this new religion. Allah was directly accessible to the prayer of poor and rich alike. He preached the liberation of slaves. In his own home he freed his slave Zaid (ra) and adopted him as a son.

Soon the revelations coming to the Prophet were being jotted down by his disciples. He was unable to do it himself as he was unlettered. The Quran (7:157-8) calls him the unlettered Prophet. Later, they were gathered into one volume called the Quran. By now, Islam was no longer being preached by one single voice but by a swelling chorus.

Allah says in the Quran (33:21) "Certainly, you have in the Messenger of Allah an excellent example". There is no one on earth able to imitate him. As a corollary to this verse, Allah included in the life of the Prophet every single detail that a person who follows him as a role model would need to live a life as a decent human being.

During the period at which the Prophet (saw) appeared, history tells us that Europe was in the Dark Ages. It was a time when the integrity of the female was in question. The Romans even went to the extent of inquiring whether a female had a soul. They even doubted that females were human beings. They were denied the right to inheritance. Mankind was living in utter ignorance. Islam gave the female her rights as a woman.

Prophet Muhammad has been both praised and criticised. One person who praised him, John William Draper, writes in *The History of Intellectual Development of Europe*, "Four years after the death of Justinian there was born at Makkah, in Arabia, the man who, of all men, has exercised the greatest influence upon the human race".

He was one prophet, if not the only prophet, who was born in the clear light of history, who lived life as a youth, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a just ruler, a man of power, wealth, nobility, poverty, the oppressed and never the oppressor.

His life was authentic. This authenticity has come from reputable and verified

*the praised*

resources. Every aspect of his life has been well documented. There was reference to the manner of his eating, drinking, how he walked and talked, even the number of grey hairs he had.

Within a span of 23 years he transformed the world and the light he shed has lasted profitably for 14 centuries.

The name Muhammad means "The Praised" God himself praises him in the Quran (33:56) with the words: "I and My Angels send salutations upon the Prophet. O you believers, you too send salutations upon him". Muslims pray five times a day. At every prayer a Muslims sends salutations. One cannot count the number of salutations that the Muslims send upon the Prophet each day.

He was a man who led mankind out of the darkness into the light. His favourite wife, Ayesha (ra) praises him in the following words:

We have a sun and it is the sun in the sky,  
But our sun is better than the sun in the sky,  
For verily the sun in the sky gives light only to  
half the world  
Whereas our sun radiates light 24 hours of the  
day.



# SAVE THE DATE!!

## Saturday 9th February

### Pool & Sports Day

[Strictly girls only]  
at Zayed College for Girls



Hosted by ZCG YMWA Youth Ambassadors

# Kiwi families need help too

Many Muslims in New Zealand do not believe there is poverty in this country. Even those who accept that there is a problem often believe that the state welfare system is sufficient to help poor families. Such beliefs explain why many Muslims in New Zealand direct their charity mainly to distant families in faraway home countries. Even their zakat often goes overseas.

The facts paint a very different picture. One in five Kiwi children lives in poverty. Children are six times more likely to live in poverty than the elderly, and the effects of poverty are most damaging in childhood.<sup>1</sup> Only a couple of months ago, Maori Party co-leader Tariana Turia said it was disgusting that in a land of "milk and money" there were 270,000 children living in poverty and 120 dying each year.<sup>2</sup> In 2010, more than 25,000 children were admitted to hospital for respiratory infections. Doctors routinely treat cases of rheumatic fever and scabies – preventable diseases now rare in Europe. Behind these diseases lies child poverty. New Zealand is second to last in child health and safety rankings of 30 OECD countries, with only Turkey worse.<sup>3</sup>

New migrants have particular problems. They have extra expenses related to visa and residence applications, which strains their limited budgets. Many are not yet working; even those who are may only be earning the minimum rate. Some new migrant families that have no family member earning are ineligible for government funding, which means they are also ineligible to receive budgeting advice from budgeting services.

One Islamic charity that is doing something about the problem is Auckland-based Working Together Group (WTG)<sup>4</sup>, which operates the Helping Hand food banks placed in several mosques but ignored by most brothers. WTG volunteers collect the food donated each month and distribute it to two other charities, who pass it on to their clients.

The Fatimah Foundation<sup>5</sup> is one of the recipients. "We provide food parcels to more than 50 families every week," said Liaison Officer Faiyaz Khan. "We are keen to ensure that people do not go hungry just because they cannot afford to buy the basic needs of existence."

All it takes is for anyone praying at a mosque with a food bank to drop in a non-perishable basic food item each week. That simple act of charity (sadaqa, an Islamic virtue) would go a long way towards putting food on the tables of Auckland's poor families.

1. Child Poverty Action Group, December 2012. [www.cpag.org.nz](http://www.cpag.org.nz)

2. NZ Herald, 12 December, 2012. [www.nzherald.co.nz](http://www.nzherald.co.nz)

3. Smith, B. Poverty - an embarrassment to the country, 21 November 2011. [www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/6020087/Poverty-an-embarrassment-to-the-country](http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/6020087/Poverty-an-embarrassment-to-the-country)

4 [wtg.org.nz](http://wtg.org.nz)

5 [www.fatimahfoundation.org.nz](http://www.fatimahfoundation.org.nz)

"A man is not a believer who fills his stomach while his neighbour is hungry." (Hadith Bukhari)



**270,000 children  
in poverty**

**25,000 children  
with respiratory  
diseases**

**Working Together  
Group**

**Fatimah  
Foundation**

**food bank**

# Between you and God

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred;

... Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

... Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

... Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

... Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

... Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

... Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

... Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

... Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway.



Mother Teresa  
Albanian Catholic nun  
1910 – 1997

# Voice of Islam



VOI delivers the message of Islam based on the teachings of the Noble Quran and the Sunnah (practices) of the Prophet Muhammad (saw). The show neither delivers nor promotes any political, national, ethnic, social or class perspective – its focus is purely on da'wah and deen-al-Islam (the Islamic faith/way of life).

VOI television is broadcast on:

- Triangle TV in Auckland (8.00 & 11.30am Sat; 8.00am Sun)
- CTV in Christchurch
- Channel 9 Dunedin
- Telstra Digital TV in Wellington & Christchurch CH 50
- SKYTV CH 89 and Freeview CH 21 in New Zealand
- MAITV in Fiji
- METRO TV in Ghana, West Africa

## 2 & 3 February

Quran 17: 88-89

LECTURE: Changing ourselves from within by Abdul Hakim Quick

DOCUMENTARY: The miracle of the ant part 1.

## 9 & 10 February

Quran 2: 163-165

LECTURE: Islam the unique religion by Adv. Mayan Kutty Mather

DOCUMENTARY: The miracle of the ant part 2.

NO STONE UNTURNED: Shahadah by Bilal Dannoun

## 16 & 17 February

Quran 109: 1-6

LECTURE: Why you should believe in 1 God by Sheikh Hussein Yee

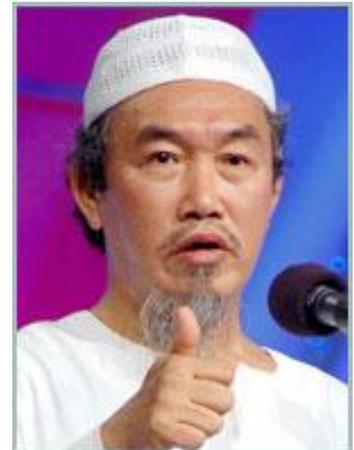
DOCUMENTARY: Splendour in the seas part 1

## 23 & 24 February

Quran 51: 56-60

LECTURE: Divine Bonds by Sheikh Waleed Abdul Hakim

DOCUMENTARY: Splendour in the seas part 2



Sheikh Hussein Yee

Watch VOI online, or order a free copy of the Quran: [www.voiceofislamtv.com](http://www.voiceofislamtv.com)



## Auckland prayer timetable for February 2013

(from [www.islamicFinder.org](http://www.islamicFinder.org). For other cities in New Zealand, see [www.fianz.co.nz](http://www.fianz.co.nz)).

***“There are three kinds of people whose prayer Allah will not accept: a leader who is hated by his nation, a master who oppresses his slave after making a contract to set him free, and a person who observes prayer after its proper time” (hadith Abu Dawood)***

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

Asr 1: Maliki, Shafii and Hanbali schools (single shadow length)

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

## Credits

*Rocket Science* is a monthly newsletter produced by the Mount Albert Islamic Trust.

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## Why attend Rocket Park jumuah?

- ✓ Central location
- ✓ Plenty of free parking
- ✓ Facilities for ladies
- ✓ Bayaan (religious talk) before jumuah prayers
- ✓ All bayaan and khutbah in English

NB We are only open for Friday prayers – not for the five daily prayers.

In December 2010, the **Senior Citizens' Association building, Rocket Park, New North Road, Mount Albert**, was closed for renovation by the Auckland City Council. Following these renovations, we believe we are the only jumuah in New Zealand with air-conditioning and heating.

## Subscribing/unsubscribing

If you have received this newsletter and want to unsubscribe (ie do not want to receive future issues), please send an email to masjidnews@gmail.com with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Vice versa, if you have received this newsletter indirectly, and would like to have future issues sent to your email address each month, please send an email to masjidnews@gmail.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

## Back issues of *Rocket Science*

Missed an issue of *Rocket Science*? All our monthly issues are available online at the Mount Albert Islamic Trust website: [www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org](http://www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org)

## Swt, saw, as, ra

swt : subhanahu wa ta'ala "Glory to Him, the Exalted" (when mentioning Allah)

saw : salallahu alaihi wassalam "May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him" (when mentioning Muhammad)

as: alaihis salam "Peace be on him" (when mentioning other prophets)

ra : radi allahu anhu/ha/hum "May Allah be pleased with him/her/them" (when mentioning members of Muhammad's family, companions, etc)