

## Inside this issue

Zachariah & Yahya .....	2
Ignorance about religions .....	6
Quiz .....	11
Sri Lankan Society .....	12
Voice of Islam .....	14
Prayer timetable .....	15

# Rocket Science

May 2015

Rajab / Shaban 1436



In the name of Allah,  
most Gracious, most Merciful

## School still seeks funds

Al-Madinah School in Mangere, Auckland, still needs to raise about \$300,000 to finish paying for its recently completed building works.

Founded in 1992, it was New Zealand's first Islamic school and remains the main one. The State-integrated school is a project of the Islamic Education and Dawah Trust (IED), a registered charity also responsible for Zayed College and Al-Maqtoum Mosque ("Airport Mosque").

Management made plans in 2012 to expand in order to meet the increasing demand for places at the school from Auckland's fast-growing Muslim population, 31,176 in the 2013 census and ever increasing. In April 2013, the Minister of Education granted permission for the school, which accepts students from Year Zero to

Year 13, to expand its roll. In October of the same year, Auckland Council granted resource consent for the school to start construction of a second storey. Work began on the foundations in January last year.

The New Zealand Government has contributed \$1.2 million towards the \$2 million project. The school has raised in excess of half a million dollars.

Al-Madinah School has proved worthy of the community's support, with consistently excellent results in NCEA examinations over recent years. Council has signed off the building work and the new classrooms and offices are operational. Please help in any way you are able to ([info@al-madinah.school.nz](mailto:info@al-madinah.school.nz), 275 5195).



## Prophets Zachariah and Yahya (as)

This article tells the story of two prophets. They were father and son, and both of them faced martyrdom at the hand of disbelievers because of their preaching of the message of Allah (swt). They are Zachariah and Yahya (as), known as John the Baptist to Christians. Allah (swt) has described their story in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> chapters of the Quran (Surah Ali Imran, or the family of Imran, and Surah Mariam, or Mary, ra).



The person named Imran was a pious person from Bani Israel. According to some narrations, he was a descendent of Prophet Harun (Aaron, as). He had two daughters named Hannah and Ashya (or Al-Yashbi) who were also as righteous and devout as their father. Hannah was married to a man also named Imran, while Ashya was married to Prophet Zachariah (as).

Hannah and Imran remained childless for years. Therefore, they both prayed to Allah (swt) asking for a child, and Hannah made a vow that, if she had a son, she would dedicate him to the service of Hekal or the Jewish temple. After years of prayers, she finally had a child, but it was not a son as she had wished. Also, her husband Imran passed away before the child was born. Hannah named her baby girl Mariam, who would become the mother of Prophet Isa (Jesus, as).

عيسى

Hannah decided to devote her daughter to the service of the temple, despite her child being a girl. However, nobody at the temple accepted her or wanted to become her guardian, because most preachers considered being the guardian of a girl to be too much of a burden. Therefore, Zachariah (as), who was also childless at that time, decided to become the guardian of his wife's sister's daughter and she remained in his custody until reaching adulthood.

Zachariah earned his livelihood as a carpenter. Even in his old age, Zachariah was a devoted worshipper who did not let his feebleness obstruct his daily sermons. He was not rich, but was always willing to help others and guide them to the true path. He knew that his people were weak in their faith and were always ready to change the holy laws to their liking, and therefore needed a strong leader to continue to keep them on the path of Allah. Adding to his concern was the disappointment that he too did not have any children to continue the teachings after him. His state of affairs made him anxious, and he longed for a son to maintain the teachings of the law after his death.

One day, he visited Mariam who was staying in the temple, and was surprised to find fresh fruit that was out of season in her isolated room. Since nobody except Zachariah visited her, he inquired about the source of the fresh fruit and she told him that it was from Allah and that she got it every morning.

The incident made a great impression on Zachariah and he stood in prayer in his sanctuary all night requesting Allah to bless him with a good son. He realised that he was himself almost 70 years old and his wife was long past childbearing age. However, he had full faith in Allah's power and mercy as nothing is impossible for the Almighty.

Zachariah's secret call to Allah for a son was fulfilled and he was given the glad tidings of Prophet Yahya, pure from sin, righteous and dutiful towards his parents, and neither arrogant nor disobedient. Allah said, "O

Zachariah! Verily, We give you the glad tidings of a son. His name will be Yahya (John). We have given that name to none before him." Zachariah said, "My Lord! How can I have a son, when my wife is barren, and I have reached extreme old age?" Allah said, "So (it will be). Your Lord says. It is easy for Me. Certainly I have created you before, when you had been nothing." Zachariah said, "My Lord! Appoint for me a sign." Allah said, "Your sign is that you shall not speak unto mankind for three nights, though having no bodily defect." Then he came out to his people and he told them by signs to glorify Allah's praises in the morning and in the afternoon (see Quran, 19:2-11).



As Allah promised, he was given a male child, and Allah bestowed this child with wisdom and knowledge in his infancy, and appointed him His prophet and messenger. In the Quran, Allah (swt) states, "O Yahya! Hold fast to the Scripture (the Torah). And We gave him wisdom while yet a child" (Quran, 19:12).

Some narrations state that Yahya was given prophethood when he was only three years old. As a child, Yahya was unlike other children who liked to play, as he was serious all the time. He fed the animals from his food until there was nothing left for him, and he just ate fruit or leaves of trees. Yahya loved reading in his childhood. Allah guided him to read the Book of Jurisprudence closely; thus, he became the wisest and most knowledgeable man of that time.

Therefore, Allah endowed him with the faculties of passing judgment on people's affairs, interpreting the secrets of religion, guiding people to the right path, and warning them against the wrong path. When Yahya grew up, his compassion for his parents, as well as for all people and all creatures, increased greatly. He and his father Zachariah both called people to repent for their sins. Yahya wept so much that tears marked his cheeks. He found comfort in the open and never cared about food. He ate leaves and herbs, and he slept anywhere in the mountains. Out of mercy, he fed animals from his food, and was satisfied with prayers as food for his soul. He would spend the night crying and praising Allah for His blessings. When Yahya called people to worship Allah, he made them cry out of love and submission, with the truthfulness of his words. Most of the Bani Israel did not respond to the call of Zachariah and Yahya (as). Instead they tried to stop their preaching, first by threatening them and then by torturing them. However, they could not stop their mission and finally decided to kill them. First they tried to kill Zachariah, and one day they started chasing him. Allah ordered him to run away

from his killers, who were led by Shaitan. While Zachariah was running and looking for a place to hide, a tree spoke to him and asked to come by its side. When Zachariah went close to the tree, it opened its trunk and asked him to come inside. When he went inside, the tree closed its trunk so that nobody could see him. However, Shaitan, who was following him, held his garment and therefore part of his clothes could still be seen jutting out of the tree.

When the group of people who were chasing Zachariah came looking for him, Shaitan told them he was hiding inside the tree, but they were unconvinced. Then they saw the piece of cloth hanging outside the tree, but the Bani Israel still remained unbelievers, even after seeing this miracle of Allah. Then Shaitan told them that they could kill Zachariah by cutting the tree down. They brought a huge saw, and cut the tree and Zachariah, who was inside, was also cut into two. The Quran makes mention of the cruel acts of the Israelites in the following verses: "As to those who deny the signs of Allah and in defiance of right, slay the prophets, and slay those who teach just dealing with mankind, announce to them a grievous penalty" (Quran 3:21).



When Yahya heard of the brutal killing of his father, he was devastated, but he continued to be steadfast in his mission, which added further opposition. To make things worse, a conflict took place between Yahya and the authorities at that time. The king, Herod Antipas, was in love with Salome, his brother's daughter. He was planning to marry his niece. The marriage was encouraged by her mother either out of fear or to gain favour with the ruler. On hearing the ruler's plan, Yahya pronounced that such a marriage would be against the law of Allah, and Yahya would not approve it under any circumstance. Yahya's pronouncement spread like wildfire and Salome was angry, for it was her ambition to rule the kingdom as her uncle's wife. She plotted to achieve her aim. Dressing attractively, she sang and danced before her uncle offering wine to him. While drunk, he offered to fulfil whatever she desired. At once she told him, "I would love to have the head of Yahya, because he has defiled your honour and mine

throughout the land. If you grant me this wish, I shall be very happy and will marry you." Bewitched by her charm, he submitted to her monstrous request. Yahya was executed and his head was brought to Salome. The cruel woman gloated with delight. However, wherever the sacred blood of this noble prophet of Allah fell, it began to boil. It was suppressed by heaps of sand, but it continued to boil. Finally, a sandhill was erected over it, but the blood still kept on flowing. This miracle only stopped when Bakhtun Nasr invaded Palestine and avenged the innocent blood of Prophet Yahya by putting 17,000 people of Bani Israel to death on that sandhill and destroying their kingdom.

Our Prophet (saw) called Yahya (as) *wainas shaheed ibnu shaheed* "a son of a shaheed who is also a shaheed". He also said that he will be the only prophet who will come without any committed sins on the Day of Judgment, as he was completely free of lust or desires of any worldly things including women.



Shrine to Prophet Yahya (as) (John the Baptist)  
Umayyad Mosque, Damascus, Syria

## Ignorance about religions

### Islamophobia

We have all heard of the term *Islamophobia*. As the second half of the term is the word *phobia*, we need to know what a phobia is. It has been defined as "a type of anxiety disorder, usually defined as a persistent fear of an object or situation in which the sufferer commits to great lengths in avoiding, typically disproportional to the actual danger posed, often being recognized as irrational"<sup>1</sup>. Note the main features: it is a disorder, disproportional, irrational, and phobes go to great lengths. Phobias include agoraphobia (fear of open spaces, or of leaving safe places), mysophobia (fear of germs), pyrophobia (fear of fire), thanatophobia (fear of dying), xenophobia (fear of foreigners). A fear of poisonous snakes or poisonous spiders is not irrational, and thus not a phobia, whereas fear of all types of snakes or spiders – whether harmless or not – is irrational and thus a phobia (arachnophobia, ophidiophobia).



People have criticised the term *Islamophobia*. At a 2009 symposium on "Islamophobia and Religious Discrimination", Robin Richardson, a former director of the Runnymede Trust and the editor of *Islamophobia: a challenge for us all*<sup>2</sup> (now nearly 20 years old), described disadvantages of the term<sup>3</sup>:

- It implies it is merely a "severe mental illness" affecting "only a tiny minority of people", as in pogonophobia (fear of beards). Islamophobia is hardly a severe mental illness.

- Use of the term makes those to whom it is applied "defensive and defiant" and absolves the user of "the responsibility of trying to understand them" or trying to change their views. This will be expanded below.
- It implies that hostility to Muslims is divorced from factors such as skin colour (ie racism), immigrant status, fear of fundamentalism, or political or economic conflicts. However, Islamophobia is not a purely religious phenomenon.
- It conflates prejudice against Muslims in one's own country with dislike of Muslims in countries with which the West is in conflict.
- It fails to distinguish between people who are against all religion from people who dislike Islam specifically.
- The actual issue being described is hostility to Muslims, "an ethno-religious identity within European countries", rather than hostility to Islam.
- This article deals with the second of these points, namely that Islamophobes do not accept the responsibility of trying to understand Islam before condemning it, and in many cases may be quite ignorant of the religion. As we will see, they usually don't know what is true, but they do know what is untrue.

### Not knowing what is factually true: Pew Research Center study

An investigation was carried out by the Pew Research Center<sup>4</sup>, which surveyed 3,412 respondents in the USA. Respondents represented Christianity (many branches, both Protestant and Catholic), Judaism and an "Unaffiliated" category. The questionnaire included 32 questions about various aspects of religion: the Bible, Christianity, Judaism, Mormonism, world religions, religion in public life, and atheism and agnosticism.

#### Overall results

What is surprising from the overall scores is that:

- The three groups scoring best overall are Mormons<sup>5</sup>, Jews, and atheists and agnostics ("unaffiliated"). In short, non-Christians knew most.
- Christians only scored around 50% (16 out of 32 questions correct) on all topics.
- Christians fared little better on questions about their own religion, Christianity.

#### Questions about Islam

There were a few questions about Islam:

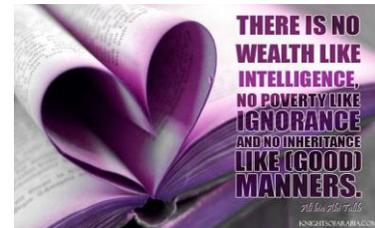
1. Do you happen to know the name of the holy book of Islam?
2. Is Ramadan ...? (a) The Hindu festival of lights, (b) A Jewish day of atonement, (c) The Islamic holy month
3. What religion do most people in Pakistan consider themselves? Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Christian
4. What religion do most people in Indonesia consider themselves? Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Christian

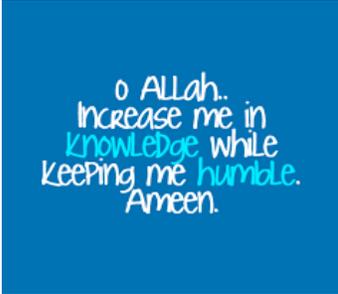
### How Religious Groups Performed on the U.S. Religious Knowledge Survey

	Average # correct out of 32	% with 17 or more correct
Total	16.0	47
Christian	15.7	45
Protestant	16.0	46
White evangelical	17.6	56
White mainline	15.8	45
Black Protestant	13.4	28
Catholic	14.7	40
White Catholic	16.0	48
Hispanic Catholic	11.6	20
Mormon	20.3	74
Jewish	20.5	73
Unaffiliated	16.6	52
Atheist/Agnostic	20.9	82
Nothing in particular	15.2	42

### Knowledge of Christianity

	Avg. # correct out of 12*
Total	6.0
Christian	6.2
Protestant	6.5
White evang.	7.3
White mainline	5.8
Black Protestant	5.9
Catholic	5.4
White Catholic	5.9
Hispanic Catholic	4.2
Mormon	7.9
Jewish	6.3
Unaffiliated	5.3
Atheist/Agnostic	6.7
Nothing in partic.	4.9





The correct score rates show a similar pattern to the overall results. Among all Americans, only 54% correctly named the Quran as the holy book of Islam, and only 52% knew that Ramadan is the Islamic holy month. Most (68%) knew that Pakistan is a Muslim country, while only about a quarter of respondents (27%) knew that Indonesia is a Muslim country (it is, in fact, the world's largest Muslim country). Mormons, Jews, and atheists and agnostics again scored best on almost all questions.

The phrasing of the first question ("Do you happen to know the name of the holy book of Islam?") is odd. Would anyone ever ask "Do you happen to know the name of the holy book of Christians?"

So, many Americans do not know what is true (the facts) about Islam.

**"Knowing" what is untrue**

In short, many Americans are opposed to Islam and all it stands for, without actually knowing much about the religion. Western media (television, newspapers) are often blamed for this incorrect picture of Islam, which is then taken as truth by those who read it. That is, many people know what is untrue about Islam. An introductory book on Islam for non-Muslims, published a couple of decades ago, started, "It is probable that 90% of what you know about Islam is wrong." This is a strange sentence because, by saying that you "know" something, you are saying that it is true; if it is not true, you cannot use the verb *know*, but *believe*, *think*, etc. *People used to believe that the world was flat, but we now know that it is round.*

**Knowledge of World Religions**

	Ramadan	Koran	Pakistan	Indo-nesia	Avg. # correct out of 11*
	%	%	%	%	
Total	52	54	68	27	5.0
Christian	49	50	65	24	4.7
Protestant	48	52	65	25	4.6
White evangelical	51	54	69	27	4.8
White mainline	53	54	63	27	4.9
Black Protestant	39	50	61	19	3.9
Catholic	50	44	64	23	4.7
White Catholic	55	51	68	24	5.1
Hispanic Catholic	36	23	55	19	3.6
Mormon	51	61	75	28	5.6
Jewish	90	80	84	53	7.9
Unaffiliated	58	65	76	33	6.0
Atheist/Agnostic	75	86	89	44	7.5
Nothing in partic.	52	57	72	29	5.4

Attacks carried out by people calling themselves Muslims are extensively reported and labelled "terrorism"; in contrast, similar attacks carried out by others are called "attacks" and the work of "loan wolves". However, in recent years, social media and other alternative media have provided an alternative source of information giving a more accurate and balanced view.

"Not all Muslims are terrorists, but all terrorists are Muslims" is an expression that has gained currency over the last few years, often attributed to Fox Host Brian Kilmeade<sup>6</sup>. So, two more quiz questions.

5. What percentage of "terrorist" attacks in the USA between 1980 and 2005 were carried out by "Muslims"? 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, 10%
6. What percentage of "terrorist" attacks in Europe between 2009 and 2013 were "religiously motivated"? 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, 10%

The answer to the first of these questions is "none of the above". The actual figure is 6%<sup>7</sup>. Or, to put it another way, non-Muslims carried out 94% of such attacks. Indeed, as the pie chart shows, Jewish extremists carried out more attacks than "Muslim" extremists.

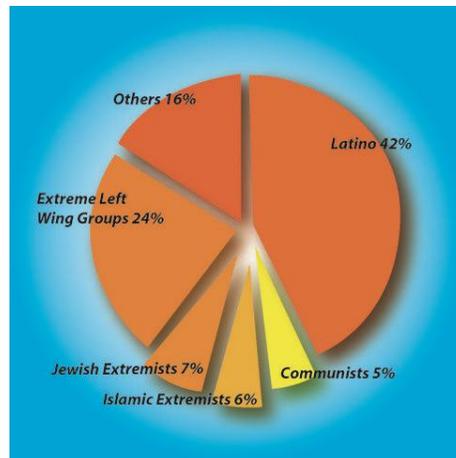
The answer to the second is "none of the above". The actual figure is less than 2%<sup>8</sup>. As Obeidallah<sup>8</sup> says, "Not even close". Or, vice versa, non-Muslims carried out over 98% of such attacks.

As Interpol<sup>9</sup> states, "Islamist terrorism is still perceived as being the biggest threat worldwide, despite the fact that the EU only faced one Islamist terrorist attack in 2008. ... Separatist terrorism

remains the terrorism area which affects the EU most. This includes Basque separatist terrorism in Spain and France, and Corsican terrorism in France. ... In the UK, dissident Irish republican groups, principally the RIRA and the CIRA [Real and Continuity Irish Republican Army], and other paramilitary groups may continue to engage in crime and violence." (The Basque, Corsican and Irish regions are all predominantly Christian.)

### Conclusion

We thus have the paradoxical situation that many people do not know what is factually true about Islam, but know what is untrue about it. This means that it is incumbent upon Muslims to disseminate the true meaning of Islam by dawah by example and dawah by speech. That is, non-Muslims need to know that Islam means "peace" and is a religion of peace, that jihad does not mean "holy war" (see the February 2015 issue), that terrorism and Islam are incompatible, etc.



"Terrorist" attacks in the USA between 1980 and 2005

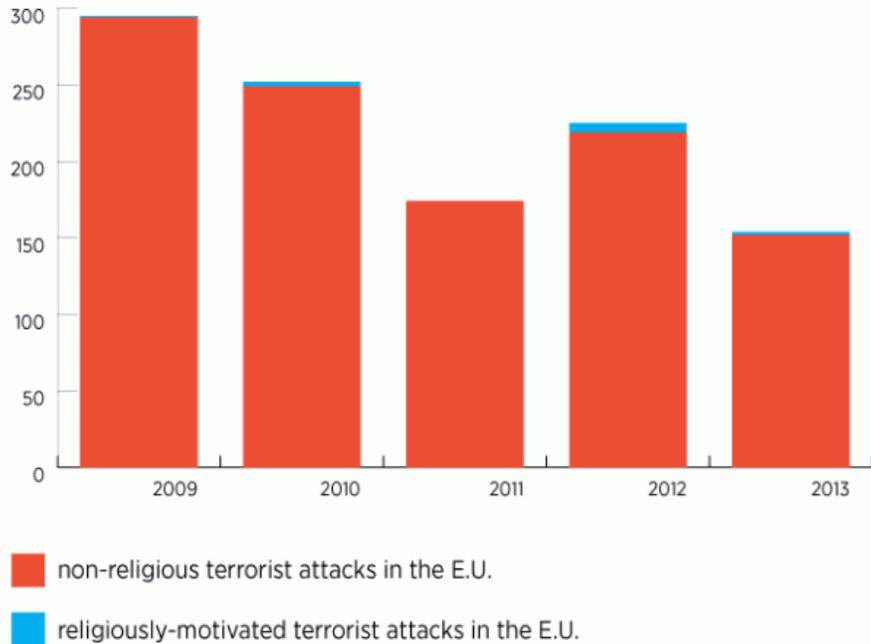
الإسلام سلام  
Islam Is Peace



Can you see the religiously motivated attacks (in blue)?

## RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED TERRORIST ATTACKS

*In the last 5 years, less than 2 percent of terrorist attacks in the E.U. have been 'religiously motivated.'*



- 1 Wikipedia 'Phobia' [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phobia#Specific\\_phobias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phobia#Specific_phobias)
- 2 Richardson, R. (1997). *Islamophobia: a challenge for us all*. London: The Runnymede Trust.
- 3 Wikipedia 'Islamophobia' [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamophobia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamophobia)
- 4 Pew Research Center (2010). [www.pewforum.org/2010/09/28/u-s-religious-knowledge-survey-who-knows-what-about-religion](http://www.pewforum.org/2010/09/28/u-s-religious-knowledge-survey-who-knows-what-about-religion)
- 5 Mormons are often considered a marginal branch of Christianity. Note, for instance, that the list of topics given by the Pew Research Center list Mormonism separately from Christianity and the Bible.
- 6 Tanya Somanader (15 October 2010). Fox Host Brian Kilmeade Says 'All Terrorists Are Muslim' In Defense Of O'Reilly's 'Muslims Killed Us' Remark. [thinkprogress.org/media/2010/10/15/124417/kilmeade-muslim-terrorists](http://thinkprogress.org/media/2010/10/15/124417/kilmeade-muslim-terrorists)
- 7 Global Research (1 May 2013). Non-Muslims Carried Out More than 90% of All Terrorist Attacks in America. [www.globalresearch.ca/non-muslims-carried-out-more-than-90-of-all-terrorist-attacks-in-america/5333619](http://www.globalresearch.ca/non-muslims-carried-out-more-than-90-of-all-terrorist-attacks-in-america/5333619)
- 8 Beenish Ahmed (8 January 2015). Less than 2 percent of terrorist attacks in the E.U. are religiously motivated. ThinkProgress. [thinkprogress.org/world/2015/01/08/3609796/islamist-terrorism-europe](http://thinkprogress.org/world/2015/01/08/3609796/islamist-terrorism-europe)
- Dean Obeidallah (14 January 2015). Are all terrorists Muslims? It's not even close. The Daily Beast. [www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/01/14/are-all-terrorists-muslims-it-s-not-even-close.html](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/01/14/are-all-terrorists-muslims-it-s-not-even-close.html)
- Charles Kurzman (2014). Muslim-American Terrorism in 2013. [sites.duke.edu/tcths/files/2013/06/Kurzman\\_Muslim-American\\_Terrorism\\_in\\_2013.pdf](http://sites.duke.edu/tcths/files/2013/06/Kurzman_Muslim-American_Terrorism_in_2013.pdf)
- Damios (23 November 2011). Updated Europol data: Less than 1% of terrorist attacks by Muslims. Loonwatch. [www.loonwatch.com/2011/11/updated-europol-data-less-than-1-of-terrorist-attacks-by-muslims](http://www.loonwatch.com/2011/11/updated-europol-data-less-than-1-of-terrorist-attacks-by-muslims)
- 9 Interpol (2009). TE-SAT 2009: EU terrorism situation and trend report. [www.europol.europa.eu/content/publication/te-sat-2009-eu-terrorism-situation-trend-report-1471eu/content/publication/te-sat-2009-eu-terrorism-situation-trend-report-1471](http://www.europol.europa.eu/content/publication/te-sat-2009-eu-terrorism-situation-trend-report-1471eu/content/publication/te-sat-2009-eu-terrorism-situation-trend-report-1471)

## Quiz

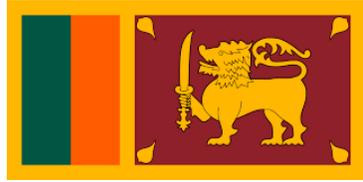
It is unfair for Muslims to expect non-Muslims to know much about Islam, if Muslims themselves do not “practise what they preach”, and know about other religions, by having read and asked about them. So, here are some of the Pew Research Center’s questions about non-Islamic religions.

1. What is the first book of the Bible?
2. When does the Jewish Sabbath begin: Friday, Saturday or Sunday?
3. Which religion aims at nirvana, the state of being free from suffering: Buddhism, Hinduism or Taoism?
4. When was the Mormon religion founded: (a) after 1800, (b) between 1200 and 1800, or (c) before 1200?
5. Is an agnostic someone who (a) does not believe in God, (b) is unsure whether God exists, or (c) believes in God?
6. Where, according to the Bible, was Jesus born: Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem or Jericho?
7. What is the religion of most people in India: Christian, Hindu, or Buddhist?
8. What is the name of the person whose writings and actions inspired the Protestant (Christian) Reformation? Martin Luther, Thomas Aquinas or John Wesley?
9. What are the names of the first four books of the New Testament, that is, the four Gospels?
10. In which religion are Vishnu and Shiva central figures? Buddhism, Hinduism or Taoism?
11. Is an atheist someone who (a) does not believe in God, (b) is unsure whether God exists, or (c) believes in God?
12. The Book of Mormon tells of Jesus appearing to people in what area: (a) the Middle East, (b) Asia or (c) the Americas?
13. Were/are the following people Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu or Mormon?
  - The Dalai Lama
  - Mahatma Gandhi
  - Mother Teresa
  - Joseph Smith
  - Maimonides

(Answers on page 13)



## Annual sports day of the Sri Lankan Society of NZ



The 7<sup>th</sup> annual sports day of the Sri Lankan Society of New Zealand (SLSNZ) was held in March. Children from 4 to 12 years of age participated in running, bicycle races, sack races and coin throws.

There were games for adults such as pot breaking, sack races, pillow fights, an activity course and *elle* (pronounced *el-lay*) which is a traditional Sri Lankan sport similar to baseball.



The sports day prize giving was held on 5 April. The event started with a welcome speech from the president of the SLSNZ, Mr Farook Kalanther. All winners received trophies and certificates. At the end of the evening, a short speech

was delivered by Moulavi Adambawa Abooubaitha from Sri Lanka who was holidaying in New Zealand. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from the secretary of the society, Jereeth Abdeen.



### Answers to the quiz on page 11

- 1 Genesis
- 2 Friday (like Islam, days are considered to start at sunset)
- 3 Buddhism
- 4 (a) after 1800 (1820s, to be precise)
- 5 (b) is unsure whether God exists
- 6 Bethlehem
- 7 Hindu
- 8 Martin Luther
- 9 The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- 10 Hinduism
- 11 (a) does not believe in God
- 12 (c) the Americas
- 13 The Dalai Lama (Buddhist); Mahatma Gandhi (Hindu); Mother Teresa (Catholic); Joseph Smith (Mormon); Maimonides (Jewish).



Abdur Raheem Green

## 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).

VOI television is broadcast on:

- SKYTV CH 83 (Face TV) in New Zealand (11.30 am Sat & 9.00 am Sun)
- CTV in Christchurch (see TV guide for times)
- Channel 9 in Dunedin (see TV guide for times)
- Mai TV in Fiji (10.00 am Sun)
- METRO TV in Ghana, West Africa (see TV guide for times)

### 2 May

Quran 57: 1-4 God is the creator of everything.

LECTURE: Mother – the role model for peace by Mohammad Saleh.

DOCUMENTARY: The moral values of believers part 1.

Tid Bits: Muslims by Sheikh Yusuf Estes.

### 9 May

Quran 57: 1-4 God is the creator of everything.

LECTURE: Quran and the modern world by Abdur Raheem Green.

DOCUMENTARY: The moral values of believers part 2.

### 16 May

Quran 57: 1-4 God is the creator of everything.

LECTURE: 33 Ingredients for a happy family by Sheikh Bilal Dannoun.

DOCUMENTARY: The moral values of believers part 3.

### 23 May

Quran 57: 1-4 God is the creator of everything.

LECTURE: Is belief enough? By Dr. Bilal Philips.

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 2 part 1.

### 30 May

Quran 57: 1-4 God is the creator of everything.

LECTURE: The purpose of life by Sheikh Yusuf Estes.

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 2 part 2.

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

## Auckland prayer timetable for May 2015

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

Date	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr 1	Asr 2	Maghrib	Isha
1	5:33	6:59	12:19	3:14	3:57	5:37	6:59
2	5:34	7:00	12:18	3:13	3:56	5:36	6:58
3	5:34	7:00	12:18	3:13	3:56	5:36	6:58
4	5:35	7:02	12:18	3:11	3:54	5:33	6:56
5	5:36	7:03	12:18	3:10	3:53	5:32	6:55
6	5:36	7:03	12:18	3:09	3:52	5:31	6:55
7	5:37	7:04	12:18	3:08	3:51	5:30	6:54
8	5:38	7:05	12:18	3:08	3:50	5:29	6:53
9	5:39	7:06	12:18	3:07	3:49	5:28	6:52
10	5:39	7:07	12:18	3:06	3:48	5:27	6:51
11	5:40	7:08	12:18	3:05	3:47	5:27	6:50
12	5:41	7:08	12:18	3:05	3:46	5:26	6:50
13	5:41	7:09	12:18	3:04	3:45	5:25	6:49
14	5:42	7:10	12:18	3:03	3:45	5:24	6:48
15	5:43	7:11	12:18	3:03	3:44	5:23	6:48
16	5:43	7:12	12:18	3:02	3:43	5:22	6:47
17	5:44	7:13	12:18	3:01	3:42	5:22	6:46
18	5:45	7:13	12:18	3:01	3:42	5:21	6:46
19	5:45	7:14	12:18	3:00	3:41	5:20	6:45
20	5:46	7:15	12:18	3:00	3:40	5:19	6:45
21	5:47	7:16	12:18	2:59	3:40	5:19	6:44
22	5:47	7:17	12:18	2:59	3:39	5:18	6:44
23	5:48	7:17	12:18	2:58	3:38	5:18	6:43
24	5:49	7:18	12:18	2:58	3:38	5:17	6:43
25	5:49	7:19	12:18	2:57	3:37	5:16	6:42
26	5:50	7:20	12:18	2:57	3:37	5:16	6:42
27	5:50	7:20	12:18	2:56	3:36	5:15	6:41
28	5:51	7:21	12:19	2:56	3:36	5:15	6:41
29	5:51	7:22	12:19	2:56	3:35	5:14	6:41
30	5:52	7:22	12:19	2:55	3:35	5:14	6:40
31	5:53	7:23	12:19	2:55	3:35	5:14	6:40

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

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

Prophet Muhammad (saw) asked, "What is wrong with those people who look towards the sky during the prayer?" His talk grew stern while delivering this speech and he said, "They should stop (looking towards the sky during the prayer); otherwise their eye-sight would be taken away." (Bukhari hadith)

## Credits

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

### **Rocket Science editorial board**

Editor in chief: Dr Adam Brown

Board members / writers: Azoorah Ali, Tazkiya Ali, Nishaad Haniffa, Abdur Rahaman, Sheed Ali,

Dr Sharif M A Fattah, Syed Akbar Kamal, Hady Osman

Circulation manager: Sharif Nazre Hannan Saadi

**Disclaimer:** Any material or information posted on the *Rocket Science* mailing list is the sole responsibility of the writer or contributor. The Mount Albert Masjid Board of Trustees, *Rocket Science* list owner, moderator(s) and editor(s) have no obligation to, and may not, review or agree with any item of material or information that anyone makes available through the *Rocket Science* list, and the Mount Albert Masjid Board of Trustees, *Rocket Science* list owner, moderator(s) and editor(s) are not responsible for any content of the material or information.

**Postal Address:** P O Box 16138, Sandringham, Auckland

**Phone:** (+64)(9) 629 4222

**Email:** mtalbertmasjid@gmail.com

**Website:** www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org

<b>Bank</b>	Kiwibank
<b>Branch</b>	St Lukes
<b>Address</b>	Shop 791 Westfield Shopping Ctr, St Lukes, Auckland 1025
<b>Bank phone</b>	(+64)(9) 846 3887
<b>Account name</b>	Mount Albert Islamic Trust
<b>Account no</b>	38-9009-0739910-01

## 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

## ***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)