



OASIS OF IMAN

ISLAMIC CENTER OF IRVING



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Eid Mubarak, My Community Members!

(Mahmoud Egal, ICI President)

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2008

My Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.

I pray to Almighty Allah that your families & you are all enjoying this Eid-ul-Adha and on behalf of all ICI staff, I wish each one of you a warm & blessed Eid.

As Muslims, we believe that Eid-ul-Adha is a day of celebration and remembrance of Allah (swt) and the devotion and the commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) to Allah (swt).

We also take this opportunity to celebrated our Hujjaaj and ask Allah (swt) to make this Hajj-eMaqbool, Insha-Allah.

We are blessed in this country and while enjoying this festivity we should recognize the poverty that exists amongst our Brothers and Sisters in the Muslim Ummah. Please include your dua'a and financial support to Bangladesh, Sudan, Palestine and Somalia, which have become the forgotten land. May Allah (swt) lighten the sufferings, Ameen. May Allah (swt) grant us Jannah and forgive our sins, Ameen. Kindly support your masjid please. We do need you so I humbly ask you to volunteer at least two hours a week.

As we welcome in this Eid-ul-Adha, it is time to say Alhamdu-lillah and reflect on our past and rededicate ourselves with new vigor and uplift our spirit. Our masjid is also made out of love and dreams and we are all looking forward to many years ahead together, Insha-Allah.

We are always grateful to our donors for the continued giving, our Imam for his upbeat leadership and spiritual guidance, our Shurah, our diligent staff, our selfless & very kind volunteers and all those who made it possible for us to run this outstanding Center.

From the Staff of Oasis of Iman:

It is with great pride & joy, that we bring to you the new volume & its first issue of this monthly newsletter, on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

You are welcome to place classified ads of your business and authorized events here and even sponsor the newsletter. Br. Ali Luqman has all the details at his office.

Feedback pertaining to the newsletter, is requested from readers of all ages and you may send that to: OasisofIman@Irvingmasjid.org. It may be published in the forthcoming issue.

We encourage you to submit articles relevant to the matters of the Irving Muslim Community and please email them to oasisofiman@irvingmasjid.org no later than Jan 15.

To add your upcoming events, news of births, obituaries and achievements etc. please email to oasisofiman@irvingmasjid.org. Please make dua'a for us, JazakumAllahu-Khairan.

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From the Assistant Principal's Pen...

(Sr. Shahnaz Chowdry)

It is an honor to be part of such a wonderful community. I am glad to report that we are moving at great speed to realize our year's goals of 'Attaining Academic Achievement' for all students. This is due to the outstanding work of our dedicated team of teachers, the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, the Special Programs Coordinator, the Library Media Specialist, Assistant teachers and my Administrative Assistant; Sr. Malika Saidy in the office and many other talented people. Additionally, the PTO is doing a great job by helping out in raising funds for school projects. It is a blessing to work with such dedicated people! As you are aware, this academic year, our C & I Committee has injected a great number of new books in the school curriculum in accordance to new books adopted by Irving Independent School District. In various classes we are using textbooks for advanced studies. We have completed our preliminary diagnostic ITBS and first series of Benchmarking tests in order to deliberate on objectives that need to be completed for the overall success of our students by the end of the year. We have launched our Gifted and Talented program after conducting various assessments, which qualified a number of students from grade three to tenth. Insha Allah, we may have more students who will qualify for this program next year. Our tutoring classes for core subjects, to raise the proficiency level of our students, are running full swing. With the initiation of the Dual Credit Program with the North Lake College in Summer 2007, more high school students are qualifying to take college-level courses. Insha Allah, 5 more tenth graders will be enrolling for the Spring Semester. October 26th was our first Parent-Teacher conference. Overall feedback from parents was that of high satisfaction with their child's academic performance. Every school has their challenges and errors will occur. Your grace and patience is needed as we go through this process. Our focus is on student learning. We encourage our students to take responsibility in their own learning and by posing questions to their teachers is one way to initiate their learning process. As the parent of your child, you have the greatest impact on your child. When you are concerned about your child's academic progress, please address your questions to your child's teacher. Due to their teaching schedule, it may be difficult to reach them when you call during the school day. You may leave a message for them at the office. The best way to contact your child's teacher is by e-mail. I am hopeful you and your student will have a successful year at ISI and to that end I will support you. Please feel free to come in and meet with me so we can work together towards success.

ISI Acceptance to Candidacy for SACS Accreditation

"Ye have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah" (Surah Al-Ahzab:V21) I am pleased to announce that during the first week May 2007, ISI was commended for Candidacy for Accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)! Alhamdu-lillah! ISI applied for candidacy in February 2007. We had our first readiness visit two weeks back from the SACS representative and upon his recommendation ISI has been able to reach its first milestone! For those who are familiar with the process, this means we will receive formal visitations from SACS Review Committee members for over period of two years and by compliance with SACS standards and maintain continuous improvement process and quality assurance, we will then be approved for accreditation. Everyone at our school is very excited about this milestone for our (almost) 10 year old institution. Insha Allah we make a collective prayer to look forward to all Islamic schools becoming accredited in the coming years!

ISI Student's Outstanding Performance in 2007 State Meet

The Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) conducts competition in 19 contest categories covering a wide range of disciplines. PSIA is an exciting opportunity for private school students in grades 1 through 8 to engage in academic competition with their peers throughout the state of Texas. For this Academic Year 2006-07, ISI students participated at the District level in 8 categories with 50 students participating and winning 76 ribbons. Among these winners 21 students advanced to the State level competition. This itself has been a tremendous achievement contributing to the success of ISI students. At the District level among 8 participating private schools, ISI secured the second place as a group. In the State meet held on Saturday May 5th at the Texas Christian University, 21 ISI students participated in 24 entries. Islamic School of Irving had State level competitors ranging from 1st grade through 8th grade. All our students achieved high scores in the competitions culminating with exceptional results as the 1st place winner in Science and 6th in Mathematics in the State level. In line with the PSIA belief, ISI students have found a new excitement in learning and have received recognition for academic excellence. ISI will continue to strive to maintain outstanding achievements.

Community News & Events (Sr. Ada Syed)

Birth Announcements:

- Imam Zia ul Haq & Sr. Farhana were blessed with a baby boy named Raees ul Haq Sheikh.
 - Br. Asif Akbar, the icon behind MVBA, and his wife, Sr. Uzma Kausar, were blessed with a baby boy named Ibrahim Akbar.
 - Br. Naveed Sharieff, one of the pioneers of the Manara Academy project and Sr. Arshiya Sharieff were blessed with a baby boy named Rayyan Sharieff.
 - Br. Riyaz Shaikh and Sr. Parveen were blessed with their fourth child, a baby boy named Mustafa Muhammad Shaikh.
 - Br. Aurangzeb Mustafa and wife were blessed with a baby boy named Shaoib Mustafa.
 - Br. Raed Sbeit and Sr. Sara were blessed with a baby girl named Huda Sbeit. Br. Raed is a very popular face at ICI.
 - Br. Atheeq ur Rahman and Sr. Jabeen were blessed with a baby boy whom they named Abdur-rahman Sayeed.
 - Br. Maamoon Kassem and Sr. Brandi Kassem were blessed with a baby girl named Miriam Kassem.
 - Br. Ahmed Hussein and Sr. Jessi Frenzel were blessed with a baby girl named Maryam Ahmed Mohamed Hussein.
 - Sr. Amisha Multani and her husband were blessed with a baby girl named Hannah.
 - Br. Amadou Sy and Sr. Maimona were blessed with their second child, Maryam Sy.
 - Br. Marwan Mahier and Sr. Tiffany Mahier were blessed with their first child, Hala Kalila Mahier.
 - Br. Qaiser Choudhury and Sr. Samrin Shafi were blessed with a baby girl very recently.
 - Br. Samir Zarrad and Sr. Rim Gouia, both commendable volunteers of ICI, were blessed with a baby boy whom they named Mohamed Aziz.
 - Br. Hassan O. and Sr. Aicha were blessed with a baby boy Mohamed.
- Subhan-Allah, for the mercy of Allah (swt) upon the Ummah of Irving and for blessing us with so many little Momins. May Allah (swt) make all the kids among the Muttaqeen and the aml-e-Saleheen, Ameen.

Obituaries:

- Br. Anwar Islam lost his father, Wahid Ali Sardad, to the mercy of Allah in his hometown Bangladesh.
 - Br. Sadak Shaikh, the brain behind Manara Academy, bid adieu amidst grief to his father residing in India.
 - Sr. Shahnaz Chowdhury, principal, Islamic School of Irving, lost her loving mother to the mercy of Allah.
 - Br. Riaz Omer Khan and Dr. Faisal Khan's father, Omer Daraz Khan, passed away in their hometown of Hyderabad, India.
- Innalillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Wa Rajioon.* May Allah grant the departed souls maghfirah and the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus, Ameen.

Young Muslim Achievements:

The *Quranic School* of the *Islamic Center of Irving* proudly announced the first three huffaz of the school for the year 2007.

The highly acclaimed students who have completed this feat successfully are:

1st Hafedha – Hodaa Samad

2nd Hafiz - Khalid Shaikh

3rd Hafiz - Danyal Siddiqui

Masha-Allah, may Allah (swt) make all the three blessed children victorious in this life and hereafter. May Allah (swt) make them shine as bright as the stars in the world and may they become the pioneers of spreading our deen in this world, Ameen.

ICI upcoming events:

- The Islamic School of Irving will be hosting a fundraising dinner on the 1st of March 2008 for the proposed expansion of the School shortly. Details will soon be made available on the Masjid website.
- The Sisters Helping Sisters group is shortly planning to start sewing classes for sisters within the Islamic Center of Irving campus. These classes will help our fellow sisters to get them selves well acquainted with sewing or even earn money through the skills they obtain. A flier announcing the commencement of these classes will be put up shortly in the masjid.
- Islamic School Of Irving will be hosting a town hall meeting on Friday, January 4th 2008 at the Islamic Center of Irving with the school advisory board and a special guest, Dr. Hamed Ghazali.
- ICI workshop about the Prophet Muhammed (saws) from December 28-30.

Events' Analyses:

Islamic Center of North America (ICNA) organized and sponsored a highly successful *Family day* at *The Six Flags over Texas*, a Dallas area- amusement park as an Eid-ul-Fitr gift to the Muslim Community. This spectacular day saw Muslims from as far as Oklahoma, Arkansas and Houston come to join in the festivities. Despite strong protests from a Florida based group who call themselves *Americans against hate plans* and slanderous remarks made by Joe Kauffman, the chairman of the group, a strong Muslim crowd turned up on October 14th 2007 at the venue just to show complete support to the community. Alhamdu-lillah, amidst the echoes of the Athan, Muslim families seemed to catch up with both the Deen and the Duniya!

Breaking News:

Islamic Center of Irving declared this year's *Eid-ul-Adha* on Wednesday, **December 19th 2007**. There will be 2 prayers at 8:00 am and 9:30 am. We, the staff of *Oasis of Iman* send our warm *'Eid Greetings* to the entire community and pray for peace, love and mercy upon the 'Ummah from Allah (swt), *Ameen*. Public school students can pick up an official ICI Excuse Letter from the Main Office, Insha-Allah.

The Imam's Corner

(Imam Zia)

Alhamdu-lillah, some sisters have taken the initiative to restart the masjid publication, Oasis of Iman. I hope and pray that they remain steadfast and resolute in this intention, and hopefully this magazine can be an excellent source of Islamic knowledge and information, brotherhood, networking, and promotion of employment opportunities as well as promotion of local Halal businesses Insha-Allah.

As we are going through the blessed month of Dhul-Hijjah, it is fitting that we remind ourselves of the background of some of the rituals and worships that we engage in during this month.

As we take time to reflect on the "reason for the season" to quote an oft-used phrase used around this time of the year, we will conclude that this month is special due to the many sacrifices undertaken by our beloved Prophet Ibrahim (as).

"And when his Lord tested Ibrahim with many things, he completed them, He (Allah) said to him, I will make you into an Imam (of nations)" Baqarah, Verse 124.

Every year in the month of Dhul-Hijjah, millions of Hujjaj descend into the blessed valleys of Makka, beseeching Allah to accept their presence by echoing the famous words of Talbiyah, "Labbayk Allahumma Labbayk..."

The very reason for the existence of Mecca itself was the action of Ibrahim AS in fulfilling the command of Allah (swt) to leave his newborn son Ismail and his mother Hajar in the middle of the desert.

"O Our Lord, indeed I have left my progeny in a valley that has no vegetation close to your sanctified House, so that they can establish Salat, so make the hearts of people lean towards them, and bestow upon them from the fruits, so that they may be grateful." Ibrahim, Verse 37.

If we look at the rites of Hajj, the following are related to Ibrahim AS:

- The Talbiyah "Labbayk, Allahumma Labbayk..." in response to the Adhan of Ibrahim AS who was ordered to make adhan after completing the building of the Kaaba.
- The Sa'ee between Safa and Marwah, commemorating the running of Hajar between these two mountains in search of water and food for her child Ismail.
- The pelting of the Jamarat, to remember how Ibrahim AS threw stones at the Shaytaan when he tried to dissuade him from slaughtering his son Ismail.
- The sacrifice of the animals, to commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim AS to fulfill every command of his Lord, even if it meant sacrificing the dearest thing to him, his son.

I would like to emphasize some rules and regulations regarding the sacrifice so that the community can benefit.

Who is Required to Perform Sacrifice?

Every adult Muslim, male or female, who owns 613.35 grams of silver or its equivalent in money, personal ornaments, stock-in-trade or any other form of wealth which is surplus to his basic needs, is under an obligation to offer a *Qurbani*. Each adult member of a family who owns the above mentioned amount must perform his own *Udhiyah* separately. If the husband owns the required quantity, but the wife does not, the *Udhiyah* obligatory on the husband only and vice-versa. If both of them have the prescribed amount of wealth, both should perform *Udhiyah* separately. If the adult children live with their parents, *Udhiyah* is obligatory on each one of them possessing the prescribed amount. The *Udhiyah* offered by a husband for himself does not fulfill the obligation of his wife, nor can the *Udhiyah* offered by a father discharge his son or daughter from their obligation. Each one of them should care for his own. However, if a husband or a father, apart from offering his own *Qurbani*, gives another *Udhiyah* on behalf of his wife or his son, he can do so with their permission.

No Alternate for *Qurbani*

Some people think that instead of offering a *Udhiyah* they should give its amount to some poor people as charity. This attitude is totally wrong. Actually, there are different forms of worship obligatory on Muslims. Each one of them has its own importance and none of them can stand for the other. It is not permissible for a Muslim to perform *salah* instead of fasting in Ramadan, nor is it permissible for him to give some charity instead of observing the obligatory *Salah*. Similarly, *Udhiyah* is an independent form of worship and this obligation cannot be discharged by spending money in charity.

The following animals can be slaughtered to offer a *Qurbani*:

1. Goat, either male or female, of at least one year of age.
2. Sheep, either male or female, of at least six months of age.
3. Cow, ox buffalo of at least two years of age.
4. Camel, male or female, of at least five years of age.

One head of goat or sheep is enough only for one person's *Qurbani*. But as for all other animals like cow, buffalo or camel, one head of each is equal to seven offerings thus allowing seven persons to offer *Udhiyah* jointly in one such animal. If the seller of animal claims that the animal is of the recognized age and there is no apparent evidence to the contrary; one can trust his statement and the sacrifice of such an animal is lawful.

Rules about Defective Animals

The following defective animals are not acceptable in *Qurbani*:

1. Blind, one eyed or lame animal.
2. An animal so emaciated that it cannot walk to its slaughtering place.
3. An animal with one-third part of the ear or the nose or the tail missing.
4. An animal that has no teeth at all, or the major number of its teeth are missing.
5. An animal born without ears.

The following animals are acceptable in *Qurbani*:

1. A castrated he - goat. (Rather, its *Udhiyah* is more preferable).
2. An animal that has no horns, or its horns are broken. However, if the horns of an animal are uprooted totally so as to create a defect in the brain, its *Udhiyah* is not lawful.
3. An animal the missing part of whose ear, nose or tail is less than one third.
4. A sick or injured animal, unless it has some above-mentioned defects rendering its *Udhiyah* unlawful.

The *Sunnah* Method of *Qurbani*

It is more preferable for a Muslim to slaughter the animal of his *Udhiyah* with his own hands. However, if he is unable to slaughter the animal himself, or does not want to do so for some reason, he can request another person to slaughter it on his behalf. In this case also, it is more preferable that he, at least, be present at the time of slaughter. However, his absence at the time of slaughter does not render the *Udhiyah* invalid, if he has authorized the person who slaughtered the animal on his behalf. It is a *Sunnah* to lay the animal with its face towards the Qiblah, and to recite the following verse of the Holy Quran:

I, being upright, turn my face towards the One who has created the heavens and the earth, and I am not among those who associate partners with Allah. (Al-An'am, 6:79)

But the most essential recitation when slaughtering an animal is: Bismillah, Allahu Akbar. (In the name of Allah, Allah is the greatest). If somebody intentionally avoids to recite it when slaughtering an animal, it does not only make his *Udhiyah* unlawful, but also renders the animal *haram*, and it is not permissible to eat the meat of that animal. However, if a person did not avoid this recitation intentionally, but he forgot to recite it when slaughtering the animal, this mistake is forgiven and both the *Udhiyah* and the slaughter are lawful.

If somebody is unable to recite "Bismillah Allahu Akbar" in the Arabic language, he can recite the name of Allah in his own language by saying, "In the name of Allah".

(Last section taken from Al-Balagh website with some editing)

Women's Quality Council (Sr. Mulki Yusuf)

The Women's Quality Council (WQC), a volunteer group formed by the sisters of the Islamic Center of Irving (ICI) was established on November 2006 with the objective of increasing women's involvement in the Muslim community of Irving and to address current and future issues in an organized and supportive environment. The WQC is committed to promoting the ties of sisterhood and empowering sisters through initiatives. Since its establishment, the sisters in the WQC have been involved in various activities throughout the community to help Muslim women; this young organization has experienced tremendous success in a short period of time. The group has been responsible for coordinating and establishing activities solely for the sisters in our community, something our masjid was in need of. We've received a great amount of support from our sisters, and with this support, we have been able to put together a series of programs and activities for our sisters to partake in. In the early spring of this year, for the first time, the ICI WQC launched its first annual Women's Basketball Tournament. This program was a great way of promoting health and well being as well as creating unity among our sisters. This allowed the participants to engage with one another in a comfortable environment surrounded by sisters only. The sisters came out to show their support and had a fabulous time out on the court.

Throughout the years, ICI has organized Ramadan programs, and with the support of WQC, this year's Ramadan program was one of the most successful one's. The WQC sought after and recruited sister volunteers to help in different areas, from the daily serving of dates and water as well as serving of iftars on Fridays and Saturdays. In addition, our committed sisters provided babysitting for the children of sisters coming to pray taraweeh. As Ramadan came to an end, it came time to begin the preparation for our 'Eid celebrations. The WQC organized and coordinated successful 'Eid programs for Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha for the sisters, Alhamdu-lillah. Our dedicated volunteer sisters assured traffic control, actively encouraged silence during the khutbah, desert and toy distribution were all conducted in an orderly manner.

The WQC has also made it possible to bring inspirational and renowned speakers to ICI. Among the speakers were Aminah Assilmi and Reem Alghonimi, just to name a few. On February 4, 2007 Aminah Assilmi, a renowned female scholar of Islam and a very courageous survivor of cancer, came to ICI to share her experiences of battling with cancer and how her faith in Allah had assisted her in overcoming this chronic disease. Her personal story touched the hearts of many and we were very fortunate to have her in our presence. On March 11, 2007 the center welcomed Reem Alghonimi to give a lecture on Islamic contributions to world civilization and promote the concept of home schooling.

The sisters of WQC are all very devoted sisters, striving to keep the masjid properly functioning. They contribute valuable time to the center, whether it involves the planning of programs or simply the maintenance of the facility. With the help of Allah (SW), they have organized and coordinated various activities and programs to get the community engaged and involved. We continuously strive to promote leadership and unity among the sisters of our community.

If you are interested in volunteering with the ICI Women's Quality Council Sr. Sholon La Bar at sholon@hotmail.com. WQC meetings are held every Sunday, from 10:00-11:00 pm in the far right women's musulla (room 225). All are requested to attend to contribute their ideas and thoughts to address and find solutions for our current needs in the masjid. Please join today for the betterment of our community and for the sake of Allah.

What are We Doing with the Youth at ICI?

(Br. Mustaqiim Dean)

The goal of the ICI Youth Program for 2008 is to provide a fun, attractive program for Muslim youth of all ages that will encourage them to do Islamic works that can help develop their Islamic Character. Our approach is to spark awareness in the youth that they are accountable for their good and bad deeds. We hope that our program sparks awareness in youth of accountability so that they develop an appetite for doing good and a resistance for doing bad. This we believe is essential to the building of a strong moral character. Leading us toward our goal, our resident Imam Zia shows us that Allah SWA teaches us in the Quran in Surah Luqman the importance of teaching our children the concept of accountability. Luqman says to his child in verse 16 "O my dear son, verily, if there be but the weight of a mustard-seed, and though it be [hidden] in a rock, or in the skies, or in the earth, Allah will bring it to light: for, behold, Allah is unfathomable [in His wisdom], all-aware."

For youth ages 5-14 we have The Cards Program. Insha-Allah this program will help us raise this awareness by helping the youth track their good and bad deeds on a daily basis. With the parents help and the help of a "Tarbia Coach" (from ICI), the kids get pushed to do more good deeds than bad so that they can earn rewards. We have brought to life or made tangible a good deed by creating a good deed currency. Whenever they do a good deed they will be given a paper equivalent called a "G". G money is what they are motivated to earn so they can purchase things from the "youth store" and buy admission to our new "game room". The youth store contains items such as video games, movie tickets, toys, snacks, etc. The game room has pool tables, air hockey, foosball, bowling and all kinds of board games. The program gives assignments and suggestion to kids of ways they can earn hasanas or "G's".

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continuation from Page 6)...

They can learn a new Surah in Arabic and English, make fajr at the Masjid or do community service, for example. On the flip side of things, for the bad deeds they commit around the house, school, or in the Islamic Center they will be fined in G's. They will have to pay from their G money for the bad deeds they commit. Insha-Allah when the youth get in the mode of collecting G's, they will value them and not want to lose them. Therefore they should want to avoid doing bad things. For example, if they are saving up to buy Madden 08' from the Youth Store or a ticket to the Game Room they will think twice about making fun of someone or disobeying their parents.

For the older youth in the center, age 15 and up, we plan to put together a social gathering. Deen Pop Café will be held at ICI upstairs from 9pm-11pm at least two Saturdays per month. We will serve tea, coffee, popcorn, nachos, etc. Youth will play games of pool, air hockey, chess, monopoly and Islamic board games while listening to Islamic Songs, watching Islamic videos and sometimes live entertainment from their peers and from professional Islamic entertainers. Girls and Boys will be separated on opposite sections of the room. The admission will be \$10 but they too can pay with G money that they can earn during the week. They are not too big to do good deeds and get paid for them. To an 18 year old \$10 is a lot of money therefore they will learn a new surah or make fajr a few times that week to pay for the admission to Deen Pop Café with good deeds.

The Cards Program was tested out during this past Ramadan and it was a big success. The kids loved it. We will get a chance to test out Deen Pop Café this Eid Insha-Allah. We realize this is a very ambitious program. In order to make it a success we first need the help of Allah (SWA) and lots of volunteers.

If you are interested in being a Tarbia Coach or working in the Game Room or Deen Pop Café please see the **Director of Youth Services Mustaqim Dean at the Islamic Center of Irving or mustaqimdean@yahoo.com**.

News from the Dawah Center (Sr. Sholon La Bar)

We want to take the opportunity to spotlight the Shahada's of 2007 that have either taken Shahadah here at ICI or at other locations, and whom we have the pleasure of welcoming to our community. From January through December of this year, they are, in chronological order: **Sr. Sadiyah (Kimberly) Lewis, Sr. Michele Khamis, Sr. Karla Gomez, Br. Kendrick Henderson, Br. Lucas Martinez, Br. Michael Walker, Br. Lermon Russell, Sr. Jessica Maze, Sr. Jodi Mehmood, Sr. Mayra Barrientos, Br. Joseph Stewart, Sr. Olivia Keener, Sr. Kristin Pacomo, Sr. Mara Nipper, Br. Francisco Tejada, Br. Christian Rompel, Br. Daniel Lindsay, Br. John Alexander, and Sr. Glenda Dickson.**

If you are interested in volunteering in Dawah with any of the subcommittees (public relations, correspondence, ansaar), please **contact the outreach department at 972-812-2230, extension 1005, e-mail outreach@irvingmasjid.org**, or stop by the Dawah office, located on the first floor between the bookstore and the men's musallah. **To donate to Dawah, you drop donations in the donation box next to the office or mail your donation to: Islamic Center of Irving Outreach Department, P.O. Box 154401, Irving, TX 75062.**



An Update from the ICI Construction Committee

The Islamic Center of Irving - Construction Committee has had an eventful year 2007 Alhamdu-lillah.

With the help of Allah (swt) we started the year by initiating a bidding process to select an Architectural firm. After reviewing six different high quality proposals, which were all very competitive, the decision was made to hire **Ansari Associates** in partnership with **SG Design**. Both these architectural firms have been working together and complementing each other to provide the best solution for our project. Alhamdu-lillah, this project will not only include an expansion of the school facilities, but also a Multi-Purpose Hall for the entire community and extra facilities that can be used by the community like separate gyms for brothers and sisters; auditorium; large conference rooms etc. We encourage all of you to help us complete this crucial project by making dua'a for us and supporting the project by donating your time, money, and spreading the word to friends and family. We will keep you updated Insha-Allah as we continue our progress. Jazakum Allah Khair.