



MARCH 2017 -JUMADA-II 1438 ISSUE 112

The Mosque Foundation COMMUNITY

Pulse

NO FEAR, NO WALL

THE NEED FOR HAVING HOPE AND BUILDING BRIDGES



Sh. Ahmed Arafat

Last month was very eventful. The U.S. President signed an executive order preventing travelers and refugees from 7 majority-Muslim countries, with the exception of minorities under persecution, from entering the United States. Regardless of the legal wording of the order, many observers interpreted it as a discriminatory act against Muslims and a fulfillment of Trump's negative rhetoric against Muslims and other minorities during his election campaign. Then the Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau expressed his willingness to welcome the refugees. Then a shooter attacked the Quebec mosque in Canada leaving 6 people killed and others wounded. We do not know if this attack was a rejection of the tolerance showed by the Canadian prime minister or a support of the policy implemented by Trump! Due to these decisions and developments, many American fellows erupted at airports around the nation in support of the Muslim community that was directly affected by the order and in defense of the American Constitution that vehemently rejects any type of discriminations against people of a particular faith or race.

Could Trump's era be a blessing in disguise for the Muslim community and the different minorities? I tend to answer this question in the positive provided that we recognize the privileges we have with a corresponding sense of duties and responsibilities. Picking up on the theme "No Fear, No Wall," I advise that we should not allow ourselves to be consumed by fear and isolation; we need to face fear with courage and hope. This article seeks to explore five powers to recognize along with five responsibilities to accept.

(1) The Power of the Community

On a cold night at O'Hair airport, I joined a rally against this executive order and was really impressed by the sincerity and enthusiasm of our American fellows who came from all walks of life demanding an immediate nationwide block of the ban. As they incessantly chant "No fear, no wall," I felt the banned persons are literally their close relatives. The ban may have not impacted those protesters directly but they were fighting for the values of our constitution. For the first time, I felt what it means to defend a value just because it is a value, not because you are directly affected by the lack thereof. I also felt the power of the community and the awareness of people as some donated money to legal organizations to defend their constitution. Lawyers erupted to some airports to help those who were illegally and unjustly detained. They stayed up the whole night for defending people's legal rights. Moreover, many non-Muslims visited a lot of mosques making human chains in solidarity with the Muslim community. This great support gives Muslims and other minorities great hope for a healthier society where

continue on page 2

BRIDGEVIEW, IL 60455
PERMIT 107
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
PRESORT STD

7360 W. 93rd Street
Bridgeview, IL 60455





MF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Oussama Jammal
2. Safaa Zarzour
3. Abdallah M. Shuaibi
4. Ahmed Kamni
5. Habes Abdallah
6. Banan Said
7. Kalid Baste
8. Aisheh Said
9. Kamal Eldeirawi
10. Jafar Ahmad
11. Jamal Said
12. Jihad Matariyeh
13. Karen Danielson
14. Mohamed Aduib
15. Montaha Salem
16. Muin Abusharara
17. Hussein Ata

EDITORIAL BOARD

Oussama Jammal
Sh. Jamal Said
Sh. Ahmed Arafat
Tareq Abu-Ammer
Aisheh Said
Mohamad Chehade
Banan Said
Abdel Baset Hamayel

March 2017 Vol. 06, Issue 112
Copyright © 2015 by The Mosque Foundation. All Rights Reserved.
Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. Community Pulse is published monthly in the United States by The Mosque Foundation. Editorial and executive offices are located at 7360 W. 93rd Street, Bridgeview, IL 60455. Subscription rates in U.S. and possessions: 1 year (12 issues) FREE. Send address changes to: The Mosque Foundation, 7360 W. 93rd Street, Bridgeview, IL 60455. Printed in U.S.A.

continue from page 1

“NO FEAR, NO WALL”

Last month was very eventful. The U.S. President signed an executive order preventing travelers and refugees from 7 majority-Muslim countries, with the exception of minorities under persecution, from entering the United States. Regardless of the legal wording of the order, many observers interpreted it as a discriminatory act against Muslims and a fulfillment of Trump's negative rhetoric against Muslims and other minorities during his election campaign. Then the Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau expressed his willingness to welcome the refugees. Then a shooter attacked the Quebec mosque in Canada leaving 6 people killed and others wounded. We do not know if this attack was a rejection of the tolerance showed by the Canadian prime minister or a support of the policy implemented by Trump! Due to these decisions and developments, many American fellows erupted at airports around the nation in support of the Muslim community that was affected by the order and the American Constitution that vehemently rejects any type of discriminations against people of a particular faith or race.

Could Trump era be a blessing in disguise for the Muslim community and the different minorities? I tend to answer this question in the positive provided that we recognize the privileges we have with a corresponding sense of duties and responsibilities. Picking up on the theme “No Fear, No Wall,” I advise that we should not allow ourselves to be consumed by fear and isolation; we need to face fear with courage and hope. This article seeks to explore five powers we enjoy along with five responsibilities.

(1) The Power of the Community

On a cold night at O'Hair airport, I joined a rally against this executive order and was really impressed by the sincerity and enthusiasm of our American fellows who came from all walks of life demanding an immediate blocking of the ban. As they incessantly chant “No fear, no wall,” I felt the banned persons are literally their close relatives. The ban may have not impacted those protesters directly but they were fighting for the values of their constitution. For the first time, I felt what it means to defend a value just because it is a value, not because you are directly affected by the lack thereof. I also felt the power of the community and the awareness of people as some donated money to legal organizations to defend their constitution. Lawyers erupted to some airports to help those who were illegally and unjustly detained and stayed up the whole night for defending people's legal rights. Moreover, many non-Muslims visited a lot of mosques making human chains in solidarity with the Muslim community.

ACTION POINT:

1- This large communal support behooves us to broaden our concept of “community” to include all those who face discrimination, decimation, poverty or suffering regardless of their faith or color. We have to support our African Americans, Latino community and minority rights. Seeing all the diverse communities who supported Muslim rights adds an important duty for Muslims to be actively present, positively engaged and seriously concerned about minorities rights and major issues in our country. Let us contact these minorities and let them know that we support them. As we mobilize the Muslim community to stand for its legal and human rights, we now should do the same with other minorities and hot topics. If we isolate ourselves from the American life and its challenges, we should not blame others for being less supportive of our just causes. We have to be a witness to the strongest declaration of justice which is found in the Quran: *“O you who have believed, stand firmly to justice as witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, Acquainted”* (4:135).

2- Practically speaking, we need to create programs for our youth through which they can demonstrate an active Muslim engagement with the society. These programs should include community service, volunteering and charity works. It is this active engagement that will bolster their self-confidence, and challenge the common stereotypes about Muslims.

(2) The Power of Awareness

Long time ago, the Nazi Luftwaffe commander Hermann Goering unearthed an old game in politics in the following: *“Of course the people don't want war. But after all, it's the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it's a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism, and exposing the country to greater danger.”*

It is unfortunate to notice that fear is still used to move the public towards achieving many political agendas. It is stunning how the negative rhetoric against Muslims increases before “elections” or some “crucial political decisions”! In our modern history, we now know that the war on Iraq, that led to the killings of thousands of innocent children, women and men, was based on deceptions, lies, and misinformation. Bush had to simply say: “Sorry, we did not find nuclear weapons there,” only after destroying Iraqi cities and

March 2017 – Jumada-II 1438

creating a political vacuum which turned into a fertile land for ISIS to take shape as Tony Blair himself acknowledged that without the Iraq war there would be no ISIS.

ACTION POINT:

1- It is our responsibility to reach out to our neighbors and stress that Muslim Americans are concerned about security and safety like every other American and maybe even more due to the problem of sweeping generalization and condemnation of a whole community if an attacker turns to be a Muslim.

2- We are determined to stand against extremism and abuse of Muslim Holy Texts which also finds countless parallels in other faiths. We equally stand against Islamophobia, bigotry and prejudice against Muslims. When a person is in authority, he or she must be very careful in his or her word choice. If he or she insists to be a bully, it may be easy for people to imitate his or her behavior and rhetoric in an offensive way. For example, there was a remarkable rise of attacks against Muslims since Trump started his election campaign.

(3) The Power of the Constitution

As already mentioned, the American Constitution upholds the basic value of religious freedom. As all religious leaders of this country are committed to the value of religious freedom, we do not expect anyone to denigrate our Faith of Islam that we are very proud of and consider the most precious thing we have. Religious profiling betrays the value of religious freedom and enhances the negative stereotypes against Muslims that led to an increase in the hate crimes against Muslim lives and mosques.

ACTION POINT:

1- Keep practicing your faith with no fear. A Muslim has the right to pray five times a day without being a “suspect”! A Muslim lady has the right to wear her Hijab with all pride and dignity. If you are Muhammad, do not change your name into Moe! Tolerance does not necessitate giving up some of your beliefs; it necessitates that others should accept you for who you are. Your Hijab and your five daily prayers and your Ramadan fast should be part of the diversity of the American life. That makes America great. To ensure safety and security, there should be strong relations with , not religious profiling of, the Muslim community to build more trust and understanding. Religious creates more problems than it solves.

2- We have a responsibility to help trusted legal foundations in America to ensure justice for all.

(4) The Power of History

We learn from history that justice does not forgive apathy or neglect. In American history, many minorities suffered discrimination and injustice. We have a long history of slavery, Chinese exclusion, Japanese internment, anti-Semitism ...etc. It took a lot of time, effort, dedication and sacrifice to overcome these problems, even though some may still argue that remnants of some of these problems continue in different forms. “Great Again” means avoiding our past mistakes not retrieving them. “Great Again” means putting an end to deceptions, racial discrimination, anti-Semitism, genocide and other disturbing memories.

ACTION POINTS:

1- We have the responsibility to develop more political awareness and make sure that all American Muslim citizens are registered to vote to practice their political rights. Similarly, local political participation should be encouraged as well. In many aspects, this local civic engagement is more powerful.

2- Our community has to offer scholarship funds for serious students who want to pursue studies in Humanities, Social Sciences, Political Science, Journalism. etc. This is a way of building a new generation of Muslim leaders who can contribute to the ethical, social and political discussions in the nation at large.

(5) The Power of Faith

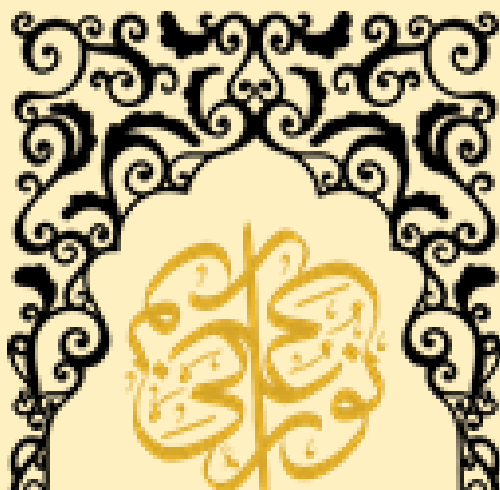
No doubt, to Muslims, faith is the first and foremost element of inner peace and security. Trusting Allah will help us find peace and wholeness amidst life challenges. We should know that Allah is the real Protector. *“Is Allah not sufficient for His servant whereas they threaten you with other than Him?”* (39:36). We are commanded to do our best and leave the results to Allah. It is a Quranic command to encounter any calamity that is beyond our control with patience, trust and spiritual satisfaction. The Quran powerfully provides: *“No disaster strikes upon the earth or among yourselves except that it is in a register before We bring it into being; indeed that, for Allah, is easy in order that you not despair over what you failed to get and not exult [in pride] over what He has given you. And Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful”* (57:22-23). Furthermore, the Quran also teaches *“You may dislike something and Allah makes therein much good”* (4:19). Even regarding the vicious slander against Sayyidah Aiesha, Allah addressed the Muslim community: *“Do not consider it evil for you; rather, it is good for you”* (24:11).

ACTION POINT:

1- Increase your connection with Allah through regular, daily Dhikr *“Indeed, in the remembrance of Allah, hearts find rest”* (13:28).

2- Pray for peace and justice for all. We ask Allah to lead us from sin to forgiveness, from darkness to light, from fear to trust, and from hatred to love. O Allah kindle in our hearts Your love, the love of those who love You and the love of all that You love. Ameen.





FATIMA RA By Dunia Daifallah

Fatima RA.... one of the women guaranteed paradise. She is the daughter of prophet Muhammad SAW and Khadijah RA. She married Ali and had 2 children, Al Hasan and Al Hussien. She was always there to support her father against the non-Muslims which is one the many reasons I find her story remarkable. Fatima RA was a very loving woman and cherished her father. When it was the prophet's SAW time to go, she was crying close to his bed. He began to whisper into her ear that he is going to leave this dunya so she began to cry even more. Then he whispered to her something to make her smile which was she is going to be the first to follow him. She loved her father so much that she was so happy to leave this dunya and join him. I've learned to appreciate my parents, in the dark and light days, to love and protect them always, for they are my gate to paradise.

Nooran 3la Noor is one of the MFCC pioneer programs that serve girls 9-12 years old



March 2017 – Jumada-II 1438

EN EL NOMBRE DE ALLAH EL MISERICORDIOSO EL COMPASIVO

Queridos hermanos de fe, la vida que todos estamos viviendo tiene que tener un proposito para asi tener mas animo en vivirla. Debemos saber cual es nuestro proposito decretado por El Gran Creador, Allah(SWAT). En un verso de el Sagrado Coran Allah(SWAT) nos dice; Por cierto que he creado a los genios y a los hombres para que Me adoren.(51:56-58) Reconociendo esta informacion la tarea de como lograr ese proposito se nos hace mas clara. Pero porque si es tan facil de reconocerlo se nos hace dificil hacerlo. Es ahi donde encontramos que tenemos un obstaculo en nuestro camino para alcanzar ese proposito, cual es indispensable para recibir El Placer Divino cual se atiene por medio de la obediencia. Allah, El Misericordioso nos informa que este obstaculo tiene nombre, Satanás (Iblis). En el Sagrado Coran, Capitulo 36:60 Allah (SWAT) nos dice; Acaso no tomasteis un compromiso conmigo !Oh, hijos de Adan! de no obedecer y adorar a Satanás, porque el es un enemigo evidente para vosotros, Y de que Me adorariais? Y por cierto que este es el sendero recto {que debi-

ais de seguir}. Tambien en el Capitulo 35: 5-6 Allah(SWAT) dice;!Oh, hombres!Por cierto que la promesa de Allah es verdadera. Que no os alucine la vida mundanal {y sus placeres}, y que el seductor no os engane respecto a Allah {haciendooos cometer pecados}. Ciertamente Satanás es para vosotros un enemigo, tomadlo pues, como un enemigo; el seduce a sus seguidores para que se cuenten entre los moradores del Infierno.

En una hadiz narrada por Maqil Ibn Yasar(raa), El Mensajero de Allah(saws)dijo, “ Tu Señor, Bendito y Glorificado Sea ,dice,Oh hijos de Adan, devotate a Adorarme y Yo llenare tu corazon con alegria y tus manos con provision. Oh hijo de Adan,no te alejes de Mi, pues (si lo haces), Yo llenare tu corazon con pobreza y tus manos con preocupacion(ocupado con cosas que no te satisficieran).” En el capitulo 21: 16-17 Allah (SWAT) dice; No creamos el Cielo y la Tierra y todo cuanto existe entre ellos solo por pasatiempo. Si hubieramos querido entretenernos {como pretendeis} lo hubieramos hecho sin que vosotros lo percibierais{pero sabed que no creamos nada sin un motivo justo y verdadero}. Cuando nos damos cuenta de como estamos viviendo nuestras vidas podemos enfocarnos en mejorar nuestra coneccion con nuestro Creador. Todos somos debiles de una forma u otra y por eso tenemos que siempre evaluar como esta nuestra situacion espiritual y que hacer para fortalecer la fe y regresar a nuestro objetivo cual es adorar y obedecer al Creador. Teniendo en mente quien es nuestro enemigo podemos contra atacar las trampas que el maldito Satanás nos pone. Debemos buscar refugio en Allah (SWAT), estar alerta de nuestras acciones y ser agradecidos con Nuestro Creador quien nos ha guiado y nos ha dejado saber quien es nuestro enemigo. Allah(SWAT) nos dice que Satanás dijo en el Capitulo 7 :16-17, Dijo por haberme descarriado acechare a los hombres para apartarlos de Tu sendero recto. Procurare seducirles por delante, por detras, por la derecha y por la izquierda; y veras que la mayoría de ellos no son agradecidos.Esta muy claro el plan de Satanás hacia nosotros.Que Allah(SWAT) nos de fortaleza en nuestra fe, Amen.

Su hermana en Islam; Celia Snowber





EVENTS OF THE MONTH

HUMAN CHAIN

Friends from neighboring churches formed a human chain around the Mosque Foundation during Friday prayer. Multiple media outlets were present to cover this event and interview the organizers. We are very grateful for the support of our neighbors from other faiths.



TOWNHALL

Community Townhall with Mosque leaders to discuss challenges faced by the American Muslim community.



March 2017 – Jumada-II 1438

MAYOR'S VISIT

Mayor Mike Howley of Chicago Ridge , and his Chief of Fire & EMS Services, George W. Sheets, visited the Mosque Foundation to listen to the concerns of the Muslim community.



Parent Testimonials without authentic and emotional

“It is such a proud moment for me to see my children speaking and reading Quran, praying with their classmates, and saying their morning duaa”

“As a parent of two children who have been attending the Al-Siddiq School for the past three years, I have nothing but great things to say about it. My girls were losing touch with the Arabic language, I did my best to educate them a few hours a week, but that wasn't making a difference. That is when I decided to enroll them in the Al-Siddiq School from all the great things I heard about it. After three years I am the one who advises others to send their kids here based on their amazing teachers, staff, and great learning environment. Within the first year my daughters knew their Arabic alphabet, could pronounce Arabic words, were praying five times a day (Alhamdullilah), and were memorizing suras from the Quran. They were also learning stories of the beloved prophets and had the opportunity to perform an imitation hajj to teach and prepare them for Hajj one day.

I have also been a member of the mothers club for the past three years where some of the mothers and I bake sweets and organize a table for the students, parents, and teachers to purchase from and all the profits go to the school to benefit the students.

I have enjoyed the past three years and am enthusiastic to see what the next years bring for my daughters and their younger siblings who I will surely send to the Al-Siddiq School”

*Mother of Al-Siddiq School Students,
Rasha Eid*

