

OVERVIEW OF ISLAM AND MUSLIMS

Islam is the name of the religion. Muslims are its followers. Islam means submission to God, worshipping Him alone and making a commitment to follow His Prophets and guidance. Muslims consider Islam not as a new faith but as the same ideology of monotheism that was originally given to the first human (Adam) and was subsequently given to all the other Prophets some of them are: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad, peace be upon them. Muslims consider the Quran as a scripture from God and believe it to be the final testament God revealed for humanity's guidance. Prophet Muhammad* is considered as the final and universal messenger for humanity. Islam's concept of salvation is by believing in the absolute oneness of God and by doing good deeds as are proclaimed in the Quran and in the examples of Prophet Muhammad*.

SIX BELIEFS OF ISLAM

1. Oneness of God.
2. Angels.
3. Prophets of God, starting with Adam as the first and Muhammad* as the final one.
4. All the books revealed by God and Quran as the last and final revelation of God to humanity.
5. Day of resurrection and judgement.
6. God's decree on the universe, either the good or the bad coming from God.

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

1. Testimony of Faith, bearing witness in the oneness of God and in the messenger ship of Prophet Muhammad* (Shahada).
2. Praying five times each day (Salaat).
3. Obligatory charity to the needy (Zakaat).
4. Fasting during the month of Ramadan (Sawm).
5. Pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca (Saudi Arabia), at least once in a lifetime.



FACTS ABOUT MUSLIMS

- o 1.6 billion Muslims in the world | 55 Muslim majority countries.
- o Only 19% of the Muslim population are Arabs.
- o Morocco was the first country in the world to recognize the independence of the USA in 1777.
- o 7 million Muslims reside in the USA.
- o 2500 Mosques & 150 fulltime Islam schools in USA.
- o Muslims are well established and serve the community as doctors, lawyers, IT professionals and teachers.
- o Muslim relief agencies often are the first ones to attend areas of disasters (Katrina, Sandy) and collect food, clothing and financial assistance for the needy.



WHERE TO FIND AND VISIT A MOSQUE?

- o Mosques usually get visitors from schools, colleges and churches and welcome such visits.
- o Websites such as islamicfinder.org provides a comprehensive listing of mosques.
- o Contact a mosque through its website, phone number or via email. Not all mosques are open 24 hours, some are open only during the 5 daily prayers.

RESOURCES ON ISLAM

- To obtain a free copy of the Quran in English or Spanish.
- To read on the biography of Prophet Muhammad*
- Free brochures on various topics on Islam, visit these excellent website on Islam:

GainPeace.com | eDiscoverIslam.com | TheDeenShow.com

May your visit to the Mosque benefit you and may it help you to further investigate the faith of Islam. We thank you again for your visit.

Got Questions?

visit: www.gainpeace.com

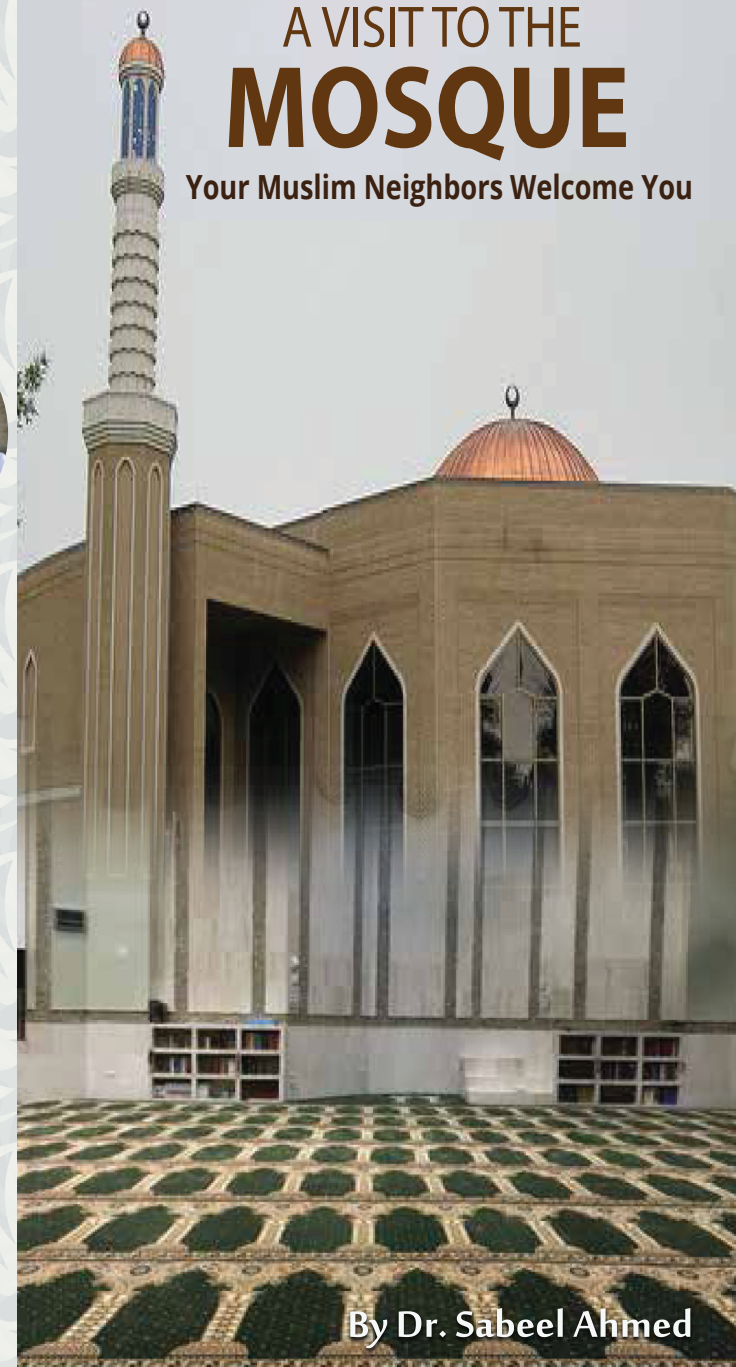
email: info@gainpeace.com

call: 1-800-662-ISLAM

Islamic Circle of North America

A VISIT TO THE MOSQUE

Your Muslim Neighbors Welcome You



By Dr. Sabeel Ahmed



Gain Peace
...through Islam!

CONGRATULATIONS!

As you are reading this brochure, you are either in mosque or are planning to visit one. Muslims welcome you to their house of worship.

WHAT IS A MOSQUE?

A place of worship for Muslims. The Arabic name for a mosque is 'Masjid' (mas-jid). Muslims go to mosque to attend their five daily prayers. A mosque is also a community center where educational, spiritual and humanitarian activities such as food drive etc take place.



SERVICES OFFERED BY MOSQUES

Not all mosques provide these comprehensive services

- o full time & weekend schools.
- o youth education & sports.
- o Quran classes & Islamic presentations.
- o new Muslims and outreach classes.
- o marriage services |ESL classes |Counseling.



WHEN DO MUSLIM'S PRAY?

Muslims pray five times a day.

1. Fajr - Before sunrise
2. Dhuhr - Early afternoon
3. Asr - Late afternoon
4. Maghrib - After sunset
5. Isha - Night



FRIDAY PRAYER

Friday is a special day of the week. Friday prayer (Arabic: Jumuah), replaces the afternoon prayer and is preceded by a sermon. Muslim men are obligated to attend the Friday prayer. Mosque visitors can also request to come and observe Friday prayer. is preceded by a sermon. Muslim men are obligated to attend the Friday prayer. Mosque visitors can also request to come and observe Friday prayer.

HOW DO MUSLIMS PRAY?

- o Before a prayer, Muslims perform ablution (Arabic: wudu) by washing the exposed parts of their body. The ablution areas are usually designated in the washrooms.
- o Take off shoes before entering the prayer area.
- o Call for prayer; the Adhan, is called before the beginning of each prayer.
- o Muslims turn towards the direction of Makkah (Mecca) in prayer.
- o Muslims stand in rows behind the Imam (leader) on the carpet. Those who cannot stand can use chairs.
- o Each prayer is about 7 – 12 minutes. Some prayers are read aloud while others silent.
- o Each motion in prayer (standing, bowing, prostrating) consists of recitations from the Quran in praise of God.



MUSLIM GREETINGS

- o You may observe that Muslims greet each other with a greeting: As-salamualay kum– peace be upon you. They may also shake hands as they perform this greeting.
- o A reply would be 'waalaykum as-salam– peace be upon you.

INTERACTING WITH MUSLIMS

- o Muslims are eager and passionate to discuss and share their Islamic faith. They will go out of their way to accommodate you and they consider it as a blessing to serve their guests.
- o Some Muslims will not shake hands or directly look at the face of individuals of the opposite gender due to modesty. These Islamic customs should not be taken as offensive, but should be respected.



MODEST CLOTHING

At a house of worship, modesty is a value expected from all visitors. As you visit the mosque please wear loose clothes which are not short in length. Some mosque offer head scarfs for the ladies. Please accept it as a form of respect to the mosque.



SEPARATION OF GENDERS DURING WORSHIP

- o Mosques have segregation of genders during prayer service. Some mosques may have men and women pray in different rooms, some times women pray behind men or in a mezza nine area.