

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## ISGVF Connections – December 2015

### Edition

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

All praise and thanks are due to Allah (SWT) for His Mercy and endless Blessings. We pray that ISGVF Connections always finds you and your family in the best of health and Imaan, (Ameen)

### In This Connection:

- **ISGVF Updates**
- **Weekend School Updates**
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- **Community News**
- **Reflections: Our Prophet and his Sunnah by Mustafa Polat**

### ISGVF Updates

#### **2015 General Body Meeting**

The Annual General Body Meeting was held on December 6, 2015. The following topics were discussed:

**Treasurer's Report** – Br. Mansoor Ahmed presented the Treasurer Report by reviewing each of the financial accounts including the Operating, Zakat, Trust, and Cemetery accounts.

**Saturday and Sunday school** – Br. Usman Fazili present the school report. He emphasized the need for more volunteers. He also gave an update of the Adopt-A-Highway program that Br Mukarram Syed is leading to implement in 2016. More details will be provided on this soon.

**President's Report** – Br Mahmood Patel thanked the 2015 Executive Council members for their hard work, including the administrators and the extended volunteers. He highlighted each of the major events and tasks accomplished in 2015 and encouraged the non-elected members to volunteer as well. Finally, he asked the community for forgiveness of any shortcomings from any of the Executive Council members.

**Board of Trustees Report** – Br Usman Fazili presented the Board of Trustees report. He reminded everyone that the Imam Committee is actively looking for an Imam for the masjid. He provided a status of each of the active committees. He also introduced the new Office Manager Sr Inshirah and the Operations and Youth Manager, Br Mustafa Polat.

#### **2016 Elections Results:**

We would like to welcome our newly appointed board member & Executive Council:

Board member: Br. Mahmood Patel (6 years)

President: Br. Hamid Rafiq (1 year)

Vice President: Br. Syed Khaleel Hussainy (1 year)

Secretary: Br Fakrudeen Ali Ahamed (1 year)

Treasurer: Br Ejaz Khan (1 year)

#### **Message from the Outgoing President, Br. Mahmood Patel**

On behalf of the entire EC of 2015, I would like to Thank Allah (SWT) for choosing us to serve in the capacity we were elected for that year. I pray to Allah (SWT) to accept our efforts and forgive our mistakes-Ameen!

Alhamdulillah, during 2015, we were a part of a lot of events and activities. I would like to thank the members of the EC-for their hard work and continuous support throughout the year. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their constant help and guidance. There were a lot of community members who also volunteered and helped in various activities like Ramadan, Eid prayers, weekly family halaqas, interfaith programs, etc. May Allah (SWT) bless everyone for their sincere efforts, Ameen!

I would also like to ask for your forgiveness for any of our shortcomings or mistakes that we made during the year that might have offended anyone or caused inconvenience. We extend our full support to the new EC elected for the year 2016 and urge everyone to do the same, Insha'Allah. Once again, thank you all for the trust and faith in us and giving us a chance to serve the community.

Jazak'Allah Khair!



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Friday, January 1st, 2016 / 1 Rabi ul Thani 1437 A.H.

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### ***Subscribe to get our Newsletter***

Are you getting ISGVF e-mails & newsletters? If not, go to ISGVF website (<http://www.isgvf.com>) and register yourself. You will start getting all ISGVF e-mails and Newsletters automatically once you register. You don't have to be a member to get ISGVF newsletters and general communication e-mails.

### **Weekend School Updates**

- Jan 9th/10th - ISGVF weekend School re-opens
- Jan 30th/31st - Mid Term Exam Mid/High (Level 5 -Level HS)
- The School doors will be locked 15 minutes after school starts at 8:30 am and 10:45 am for Elementary and Mid/High schools respectively.
- Please be on time to ensure a safer environment for our school.

We are thankful to all our school volunteers who help us function efficiently and effectively.

Have a Happy New Year ahead!

- ISGVF School Administration

### **On-Going Events**

#### ***Food Distribution Program***

The Food Pantry is open and readily available to provide food for families in need. ISGVF distributes food each Wednesday between 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Anyone interested in donating can drop off Halal meats, canned food, rice, flour etc., each day at Isha Salat or during Friday Jumah.

#### ***Weekly Activities at ISGVF***

**Mondays:** Arabic/Qur'an learning session held by Br. Tarek Salim in School Bldg. from 8:15 PM to 9:30 PM after Isha Prayer.

**Tuesdays:** Dr. Safi holds Qur'an Halaqa from 7 PM to 8 PM in School bldg.

**Wednesdays:** Sisters' Halaqa in School Bldg. from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

**Fridays:** Family Halaqa held after Isha prayer. Different topics of interest are covered by different speakers every week. Halaqa ended with potluck snacks and tea.

**Saturdays:** Weekend Islamic School from 8:30 AM to 2 PM.

**Sundays:** Weekend Islamic School from 8:30 AM to 2 PM.

### **Past Events**

#### ***Interfaith Event***

ISGVF hosted the Valley Forge Pack 81, Den 11 Wolf Scouts group for an Interfaith program on Wednesday, December 18th 2015. The group met with the ISGVF Interfaith panel that helped them answer lots of questions and shared valuable information about Islam. This also included a prayer demonstration in the main prayer hall. The group thanked ISGVF for this visit and for the hospitality they received. Thanks to Br Mohammad Aziz and his team for organizing this.

#### ***Care Packages***

A group of youth assembled care packages on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. The Youth group put together care packages These packages will be delivered to families who are in need.

### **Community News**

#### ***Birth Announcement***

Al- Hamdulillah, Br. Nazeer Ahmed and Sr. Huma Nazeer were blessed with a baby boy, Abdul-Hadi, on December 23rd. May Allah Bless him and make him among the righteous, *Ameen!*



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### ISGVF REFLECTIONS

#### *Our Prophet and His Sunnah*

We are celebrating these days a precious occasion that is dear to every Muslim's heart. It is the birth anniversary of our guide and light for mankind, our Master and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This is a time to remember our prophet, to reflect upon the beauty of his character, the mercy that Allah sent to whole universe through him. He brought us a message of pure guidance that is so precious that nothing could be sufficient to express our indebtedness to him. Allah the Almighty says, **“O People of the Scripture, there has come to you Our Messenger making clear to you much of what you used to conceal of the Scripture and overlooking much. There has come to you from Allah a light and a clear Book.”** (Al Ma'ida: 15). Through the guidance he brought to whole mankind, millions upon millions of people received happiness in this world and will receive an eternal happiness in the hereafter. What a beautiful message he brought, what an unending source of light he emanates. Indeed, the Exalted is He, the Most High, sent His Messenger Muhammad (PBUH) to replace darkness of the earth with light and guide the people after they have gone astray. His birth and message were a mercy for humanity.

The Exalted Allah says, **“And we have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.”** (Al Anbiyaa: 107). That is: the Almighty Allah sent His Messenger Muhammad with a mission of mercy for all mankind; believers and disbelievers alike. Those who believed, they were guided by Allah through His Messenger, and those who did not were invited by the Messenger to follow the righteous path. When the latter didn't respond, the Messenger never supplicated to Allah to punish them, nor did he curse them despite all the bad treatment and harm he received from them. Instead, he used to say, **“O Lord! Forgive my people as they do not know.”**

Thus, by sending the Messenger (PBUH) Allah had conferred a great favor and abundant bounties upon mankind. The Messenger (PBUH) adopted tenderness and wisdom in calling people for good conduct. For the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) being a mercy to mankind, for the good character that he brought, for the love and

compassion he had for us, we also love him. The sahaba loved him so much to the point where they would sacrifice their lives without hesitating. We also love him so much and we remember him in his birthday. However, the manifestation of this love is possible through the practicing of his sunnah. Allah says, **“Say, [O Muhammad], ‘If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.’”** (Al-Imran: 31) By following all such good conducts, one will, certainly, achieve happiness and live in welfare. Reporting on this matter, it was narrated that when Jaafar bin Abu Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, explained to Al Najashi the teachings of Islam that the Prophet (PBUH) decreed, he said, **“(the Prophet) ordered us to speak the truth, fulfill the trust, maintain the bond of kinship, keep good neighbourly relationship, leave off the things prohibited by Allah and ward off blood shedding. He prohibited us from doing the evil actions, eating up the property of an orphan and wrongly accusing the chaste women. He also commanded us to worship Allah and associate not any partner with Him, establish prayer, pay Zakat and fast (Ramadan).”**

Not only did the Prophet decree such gracious principles, but he also set for us a good example for adhering to them. His praiseworthy merits were mentioned in the Holy Quran in a sign of appreciation to his attributes and as an evidence of his great character. The Most Exalted says, **“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.”** (Al Qalam: 4). As such, the Messenger of Allah was the best of people in terms of ethics, and the most noble of them in terms of actions. For example, it was narrated that whereupon the Prophet (PBUH) was asked to invoke curse upon the disbelievers, he said, “I have not been sent as the invoker of curse, but I have been sent as mercy.” The lesson that we can draw from this Hadith is that we need to treat others in tenderness, address them with the best of words and help them with their affairs.

Yes, to adhere to the Prophet's (PBUH) practices is certainly highly commendable and worthwhile, and is even more so when innovations are rife. To comply with them in even a small matter of behavior, particularly when the Prophet's (PBUH) community is corrupted, signifies a powerful belief and fear of Allah. And to follow the practices recalls the Noble Messenger (PBUH) directly, and such remembering is transformed into realization of



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the divine presence. The moment they are observed in even the least significant dealings, in the conduct of

Eating, drinking or sleeping, such habitual, natural acts become acts of worship in compliance with the Sunnah. For the person thinks of following Allah's Messenger (PBUH) and conceives of his actions as conduct of the Sunnah. Then he recalls that the Messenger (PBUH) brought the Sunnah, and then his heart turns to Almighty Allah, the True Lawgiver, and he gains a sort of awareness of the divine presence and a sense of worship.

That is said, we beseech Allah, the Most Gracious, to confer His blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet

Muhammad (PBUH), his family and all his companions. May Allah fill our hearts with the love of His noble Messenger and guide us to follow his Sunna.

- **Mustafa Polat**

جزاكم الله خيرا

*ISGVF Executive Council*