

**ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND**  
**Ramadan Message from the President,**  
**Mohammed Yusuf**



Dear brothers and sisters in Islam,

Assalam alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

All praise is due to Allah SWT, the Lord of all the worlds and the Master of our destiny. May peace and blessings be upon His Messenger, his household and his companions.

Alhamdulillah, once again we are approaching the blessed month of Ramadan, a month in which Allah SWT opens His doors to all who seek His mercy, forgiveness and bounties. The Holy month of Ramadan is a welcome relief from the materialistic lives that we have become engrossed in and as a consequence are confronted with trials, tribulations and calamities. Ramadan showers upon us tranquility and leads us to spiritual development. It is the month of self-examination, conscience reawakening and freedom from selfishness and lustful desires.

The Holy month of Ramadan is a wonderful opportunity to refocus our energies towards good. If people die of hunger in poorer nations then we have not upheld the sanctity of life. By indulging in a wasteful and disproportionate use of the world's resources we, in the developed countries, are directly to be blamed for the deaths occurring as a result of hunger and thirst. As we fast from dawn to dusk we should remember the difficulties the poor around the world go through daily. We should give charity with open hearts and seek divine guidance (*hidayat*) from Allah.

The month of Ramadan is a month of generosity and spending in ways that are virtuous. We should all take part in the generosity of this month and not hesitate to wipe the tears off the faces of orphans, widows and the destitute. We should keep away from stinginess and covetousness for these are two of the bad

qualities from which the Messenger of Allah (saw) sought refuge with from his Lord.

Charity is not restricted to giving to the poor alone. The Muslim population in Queensland is growing rapidly. There is an ever growing need for new mosques and centres while the existing ones are overcrowded especially during Ramadaan and need expansion. All these need your support financially or otherwise. The management of these centres need volunteers and therefore it is incumbent upon us to come forward and lend a hand. This is indeed charity in the path of Allah and the reward for this cannot be described in words.

In today's materialistic world we all tend to get selfish. Everything revolves around "me" as an individual. We no longer care for the parents, the elders, widows, orphans and the destitute. When our elderly parents need our help we put them in retirement homes, our children are in foster care run by non-Muslim institutions and the rate of divorce is increasing by the day. We no longer live by the Qur'an and the sunnah that we were once proud of but are ever so keen to adopt the lifestyles of others that will neither benefit us here nor in the hereafter. This social and moral degradation will get worse unless we take heed now. This Ramadan let us all take stock of ourselves and make changes to our lifestyle that will not only please Allah swt but also save us from His wrath.

There is nothing but doom and gloom all around us- financial crises in USA and the Europe, wars in the Middle East and poverty in the African Continent and some parts of Asia. Ramadan brings us a breath of fresh air and hope that Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, has promised us. Let this Ramadan be a special one for us all and make dua for those who need our help especially in Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan, the poor and the needy in other parts of the world and the flood victims of Fiji.

Ramadan Mubarak to you all.

Mohammed Yusuf  
President, ICQ