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Assalaamu-alaikum

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Editorial

Crescents of Brisbane has finally come of age. It is now master of its very own domain www.crescentsofbrisbane.org, thanks to the kindness and generosity of its sponsors and well wishers. Along with this new found independence comes a brand new identity: team@crescentsofbrisbane.org. No longer will we have to suffer the ignominy of being a mere subsite to www.nazimahansa.com, hanging precariously and insignificantly at the end of the good lady's forward slash. Like every young adult who eventually has had to leave home the time finally came for Crescents of Brisbane and CCN to abandon the comfort and protection of their kind and generous host and to seek their fame and fortune elsewhere. In doing so we renounce the glitz and the glamour of the capitalistic, dog-eat-dog .com world and enter the .org – a Shangri-la of altruism, philanthropy and humanity. Welcome to our brave new world (wide web)!

Crescents Community Poll No. 2 Results

The following is a selected sample of responses to the question '**In which areas could we provide inter-community support?**':

- Too many to list but to give you an example, Cancer Association, Door Knock Appeal, etc. One can also register with the Volunteer Association of Queensland and they can give us various jobs in various organizations. This can also be a form of learning for those involved. I think it is a fantastic idea and we should get involved in such activities. My daughter is currently involved in the Cancer Association Door Knock Appeal and she is the co-ordinator in one area. I am a member of Queensland Volunteer Association and have worked for the Scouts Association
- Support organisations involved with orphans and poor and needy children
- Most community or charitable activities
- There are so many organisations that could do with support. Especially at Christmas time. If we show others that we respect their religious time of year, then we can earn their respect. Meals on Wheels, Lifeline, Kids help line, any vans that provide for the homeless, visiting the homeless and drug users on the street. Giving gifts for the homeless children, doing volunteer work in hospitals, even helping with the Islamic Women's (Society) to visit the sick and elderly. Having a working bee at peoples' houses who are incapable of mowing their lawn or who need easy house maintenance. Even simple things like baby sitting children so parents have some free time. The list is endless... start looking and you will find. And it should be done all year, but a bit of publicity if a whole group (is) doing it over (X)mas will not do any harm to our community.
- As Muslims it is our duty to help those less fortunate than ourselves, and unfortunately there are many people in need of our help. It has long been my wish to help the homeless in this city as do the Salvos, and other church organisations. May Allah help us all to assist those in need. We can do it individually or as a community organisation, any way, Allah knows the intention
- Clean up days, Tree Planting days, various charity appeals, etc. BUT we must identify ourselves as Muslims (by wearing T-Shirts which identify us or some other means). We should be looking at every opportunity to show that we can contribute to the greater community in whatever way we can. We need to show that we belong.

The perpetual polls are still open at www.crescentsofbrisbane.org. Get it off your chest!

Hajj Seminar

The Darul-Uloom Islamic Academy of Brisbane held a very well-organised Hajj Seminar last Sunday. Imaam Peer talked on the various rituals of Hajj and Umrah and Hajji Ebrahim Patel explained and demonstrated the use of the Ihraam. Dr Omar Bachelor and others related some of their personal experiences to the forty odd attendants and there was ample opportunity for questions and answers. A "Hajj and Umrah Made Easy" booklet prepared by Imaam Peer for the workshop should be an excellent guide for the would-be traveller. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the Darul-Uloom for conducting this workshop every year around this time. It has been an invaluable service not only for the first-timers but for the seasoned travellers as well.

Harun Yahya Conference Series in Australia

The Islamic Realm is presenting a conference on the scientific and spiritual evidence to the existence of God. The Harun Yahya Foundation, Nooruddeen Durkee, and Tariq Ramadan will address the question 'Does God Exist?' at the **Sydney Opera House (Concert Hall)** on the 26th of December and the **Arts Center, Hamer Hall (Melbourne)** on the 2nd of January.

[EDITOR]: If you are planning a holiday trip to one of these cities during this period it might be worth your while to fit this talk into your plans. If you do attend this conference CCN would like to get your impressions of it and, if possible, a summary of some of the key points discussed.

Profile on Harun Yahya:

"A leading Muslim intellectual from Turkey, Harun Yahya is the author of many books concerning the world of Islam such as the relationship of science and Islam, interfaith dialogue, and the importance of unity among believers of all faiths. Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership from all nations, languages and religions, and many of his books have been translated into more than 40 languages. His works have also been received with interest by Western scientific circles, and some of his scientific texts have been reviewed in various scientific journals as the most important expositions of Islamic creationism. These journals include *The New Scientist*, *Science*, *NCSE (National Center for Science Education) Reports*, and *The Cladistics*."

Profile on Tariq Ramadan

Islamist royalty. Terrorist sympathizer. Anti-Semite. Double-talker. These are just a few of the accusations made against Tariq Ramadan, the 42-year-old Swiss-born philosopher and activist who is one of the best-known figures in European Islam. He's a public intellectual with a popular following, and his articles and lecture tapes sell briskly in Europe's impoverished immigrant neighbourhoods. He's become a touchstone for controversy, which erupted most recently in July, when the State Department revoked his visa without comment just before he was to begin a prestigious teaching position at Notre Dame.

There's a reason Ramadan gets treated like a radical: He is one.

"I am a symbol of what's coming, a new generation of Muslim leaders - men and women - able to speak English as you are speaking English and French as they do in France. They are European, they are American, and they are going to speak for themselves."

Why Indians and Chinese cannot do business together! 😊

Watch a hilarious video clip that is SO true – it's not funny!

Click [here](#). Let us know what you think of it.



Kuraby Madressah Jalsa

CCN's roving reporter who attended the Kuraby Madressah Jalsa 2004 at McGregor School Hall a few weeks ago had this to say about the evening:

It was an occasion for the children of Kuraby Madressah to put on a show. And did they put one on! Those who were fortunate enough to have been there were entertained to some highly polished presentations. Each of the class groups performed acts that highlighted central Islamic themes and moral messages. **Zia Sabdia's** performance as the "lad who was late for everything" was one of the highlights of the night while **Ameer** (a.k.a. Mohammed) **Omar** with his cover version of 'Who next, your mother' could soon topple both Zain Bhikha and Yusuf Islam off the Top 40 charts! Can a CD from this new-kid-on-the-Kuraby-blocks be too far behind?



It was also an occasion to hand out a few well-deserved figurative bouquets. The **Paruk** family and **Leiyla Ilyas** were thanked for their part in the establishment of the Madressah, and the teachers for their hard work and dedication during the course of the year. A very entertaining evening was topped off with an equally good spread of food.

Hajj 2005

Mr and Mrs Faisal Essof have kindly submitted a manuscript to CCN that they prepared as a guide aimed at women who will be performing their *Faraz Salaah* with *Jammat* in the Haram. Based on their personal experiences from 2000, this document came about, according to Faisal, after observing that many of the ladies appeared to be having difficulties with performing their *Salaah* with *Jamaah* in the Haram because under normal circumstances they perform their *Salaah* at home on their own which is different from performing it in *Jamaah*. He also added that "...women never perform the *Janaaza Salaah* and for those who have been to Haj will tell you that almost after every *Faraz Salaah* there is a *Janaaza Salaah*. According to the Ulemas I have spoken to they say in this instance women can perform the *Janaaza Salaah*". You can download a copy of the guide by clicking [here](#).

From the Hajj Diaries (Continuation)



The Al Nakheel right alongside the Haram (which will have disappeared by now to make way for an extension of the Haram)



Room with a view

The Flight To Medina

When all things are taken into account this is a logistical accomplishment of considerable proportions on the part of the Saudis. A remarkable feat by any standard and stretch of the imagination. Millions of people from hundreds of different countries and cultures speaking hundreds of different languages all converging at one place at the same time – and every year at that. It makes the organising of the Olympics pale into insignificance – and look at the fuss made of this only-once-in-every-four-years event!

One is reminded of the story of how the Saudi Government once decided to call in experts from the West to develop an efficient model for managing the operations during this period. After months of experimenting with "what if" scenarios and computer generated simulations the best solution that they could come up with was to have two Hajjs a year!

On arrival your passport gets taken from you and that is the last you will see of it until it is time to return home. But there was little cause for panic because just as quickly as it disappears from sight so does it miraculously re-appear when it is finally time to leave for home. Landing in Medina one can't help but feel an immediate sense of the history of the place and at the same time be humbled by its sanctity. You are greeted here by an air of calmness and tranquillity that is unmatched by any other city in the world. The breathtaking view from the hotel room balcony sends a dizzy rush of blood to the head and it becomes hard to contain either the emotion or the feelings of trepidation and anticipation of the days to follow. In fact no amount of pre-reading, pre-planning or fore-warning can completely prepare you for this truly unique experience.....

Handy Hajj Hints No. 2: Muzdalifah is the desert location approximately midway between Mina and Arafat. The pilgrim spends the night of the 10th of Zul Hijjah here. It can get pretty cold here this time of the year so take your sleeping bags along.

To all those embarking on this great journey the team at CCN wishes you *Hajj Mabroor*, and may Allah (SWT) grant you the *Hidaayat* and the strength to fulfil all your obligations, *inshaAllah*.

Kuraby Madressah Update

The Madressah Committee has appointed **Imaam Ahmed Abu Gazaleh** as principal of the Madressah. Placements are available for children who would like to attend Madressah in 2005. Subjects taught at the Madressah include Qur'aan Recitation & Memorisation, Fiqh (Islamic Teachings), Islamic History, Tahdhib (Morals & Ethics), and Practicals including Prayer & Supplication (Du'aa). Madressah times are Mon to Thur 4.15pm to 6.15pm.

There are some vacancies for the 2005 Madressah Teacher Training Program. This program is in its third year and has produced 25 Graduates thus far. It is conducted especially for ladies who intend teaching in Madressahs. The classes run on Saturday mornings from 8.30am to 1.30pm. The subjects taught are Quraan, Tajweed; History; Fiqh (Islamic Teachings); Methodology and Psychology; and Tahdhib (Morals & Ethics). This program will commence at the end of January 2005 and continues till the end the year. The cost for attending the program is \$400.00 for the year.

Also, there are vacancies for teachers for the new term.

If you would like further information for either of these programs or on the teaching positions, contact the Kuraby Madressah Principal, Br Ahmed AbuGhazalleh, on 0401331298.

The Wonders of Walking

Did you know that walking can do wonders not only on your body, but on your mind and spirit? Regular walking can contribute to important health benefits, including improved weight management, reduced risk of heart disease, better control of blood sugar, improved blood pressure and cholesterol, stronger muscles and joints, maintenance of bone mass, improved posture and increased feelings of well-being through reduction of stress levels.

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CresFit4Life-er**



See you and the family at Kangaroo Point on Sundays at 7.30 am!

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