US-Based Media Barons Versus a Free Democratic Australia

By Dr Daud Batchelor

A USTRALIANS ARE UNWILLINGLY in danger of losing control of their choice to foreign media and financier barons. These barons have arguably more power than even elected governments and witness the decline of real democracy in the United States and Australia.

Leading commentator, Margo Kingston, of The Guardian, providing balanced news coverage is intent on expanding its influence over Fairfax media holdings. Rupert Murdoch said the Murdoch-Fox media in general, are intent on expanding its influence over Fairfax media holdings. Rupert Murdoch said weaknesses in the Australian media have “the narrowest interests of the state of Israel”. He noted they showed that “this clique of billionaires is tied together not only by a mutual association in interests, but also by their interest in and devotion to pro-Isreali positions on July 21, 2006, The Australian Editor aimed at increasing the view that Hamas was responsible and the Murdoch-Fox media in general, is repeatedly fed biased versions of events in the Middle East that they are unable to make up their minds objectively on international issues… as well as receiving news deliberately promoting negative views of Australian Muslims, such as an exaggerated fear of Muslims, and harping on about issues involving Jack Thomas, Multi Hilal, etc. This is having a negative impact on harmonious relations between Australians and Muslims. Rupert Murdoch said the Murdoch-Fox media in general, is repeatedly fed biased versions of events in the Middle East that they are unable to make up their minds objectively on international issues… as well as receiving news deliberately promoting negative views of Australian Muslims, such as an exaggerated fear of Muslims, and harping on about issues involving Jack Thomas, Multi Hilal, etc. This is having a negative impact on harmonious relations between Australians and Muslims. Rupert Murdoch said...
DURING A RECENT workshop conducted jointly by Issues Deliberation Australia and the Griffith Islamic Research Unit on Muslims views in Australia the question was asked:

“How can we have greater harmony in the Australian Community?”

This question is obviously one that affects Muslims, being the community bearing the brunt of discrimination. My experience is that often from one section of a community or one group of people wishes to discriminate against another they begin labelling the other in ways to justify their discrimination or intolerance. The labelling is obviously done to justify their own prejudices and behaviour. In addition expressions of this prejudice are often couched in terms which appear noble but labelling is obviously done to justify their discrimination or intolerance. The question was asked of a community or one group of people, “What is the Australian Community?”

The question was asked of Muslims views in Australia the staff of the Queensland Muslim Times. Dates and information with relevant state and federal laws and advertising codes claims or proceedings arising from the material supplied agencies will indemnify the publisher against all liabilities, responsibility is accepted for incorrect or misleading entries, ensure that the information provided within its pages is preferable less than 250 words, stating your full name, address, contact telephone number for verifications.

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DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS, Assalamu Alaikum (WWB) We wish the blessings of Allah (SWT) be with you and your family. By the grace of Allah and help from the brothers and sisters, a Mosque in Ipswich has been purchased and the Muslim Community in and around Ipswich area have been able to perform the Friday Juma prayer without requiring them to travel the distance to Brisbane. We also have been able to host some visits from Jamats from Brisbane and interstate. Five times prayers have been performed daily with a local Hafiz leading the prayers. We have had the first Ramadan which was very successful with Taraweeh prayer and completion of the Quran. The Mosque was purchased in December 2005. We were very lucky that through the generosity of a brother we have an interest-free loan for the amount of $100,000. This would not have been possible without the support of the brothers and sisters could help us pay back the balance of the loan it would be much appreciated, may Allah reward you for your effort! On behalf of the Islamic Society Of Ipswich Inc. I would like to thank everyone who has donated for the Masjid.

Wa assalam
President
Haji Jemele Hassan Deen.

For further information contact:
Islamic Society of Ipswich Inc.
Brother Jemele on (07) 3294 6081
Brother Abdul Rahman on (mobile) 0421 461 452

Bank details:
ANZ BANK
Account Number: 014-610
Account No: 4955-72093

Ipswich Mosque

Project to promote ties between Muslim young people and wider community

The Queensland Government has approved funding of $325,770 to help promote the interaction of Muslim young people with the broader community.

Minister for Communities and Youth Warren Pitt said the funding will go to the Al-Nisà Youth Group to employ two Muslim youth workers to work in the greater Brisbane area.

“Young Muslims can often be left out of mainstream activities due to the broader community’s reluctance to embrace people from different cultures,” Mr Pitt said.

“As a result they stick together and find their own activities, which can lead to them becoming socially isolated.

“It is important we bring young Muslims and their peers together in situations which promote inclusiveness and acceptance.”

The Muslim Youth Workers Project is an initiative under the whole-of-government Muslim Community Engagement Strategy announced last year.

“The Office for Youth consulted with the Muslim community to find out how best we could engage their young people,” Mr Pitt said.

“The workers will be employed over two years. Activities and services will address the specific needs of young Muslim men and women.

“The project aims to reduce the isolation and promote the inclusion and engagement of Muslim youth people within the wider community, while supporting their chosen faith”, he said.

Success

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

This is to have succeeded.

by Bessie Stanley

Outside next to Michel’s Patisserie

Shop 17/264 Ipswich Rd Woolloongabba Ph: 3391 0204
In the United States, James Abourezk of the Council for the National Interest, pointed out that support for Israel by members of Congress is based completely on political fear – fear of defeat by anyone who does not do what Israel wants done. One strategy of the Zionists is to encourage emergence of major Party leaders who are more aligned with Israel’s ambitions and policies, and then ensure that they are neck-in-neck in “public” support at election time. Due to continuing patriotic fervour after 9/11, Bush was expected to be a runaway winner for re-election in 2004. Although Bush was implementing the major elements of the pro-Israeli “Neocon” agenda, it was still necessary to have a counterpoint to reduce Bush’s advantage. Billionaire financier, George Soros funneled enormous funds to support the Democratic Party contender. This resulted in a closer race, with the two contenders – Kerry and Bush – vying with each other to provide gifts to Israel in order to get crucial support from the powerful pro-Zionist barons and media. Bush’s offer could not be surpassed – the US recognition of the defacto sovereignty of Israel over West Bank illegal settlements that had been built in contravention of international law.

In the United States, the combination of the pro-Israel lobby and national media, have been able to influence representatives, and manipulate public opinion at crucial election times to ensure that a pro-Israel government is elected. This is the handiwork of Prime Minister John Howard and his Government. Howard has shown himself to be a close friend of US citizen, Murdoch, who has supported Howard’s bid to win control of the cross-media ownership bill is arguably taking an unpatriotic stance permitting defunct foreign media. It is particularly unfortunate for a resident of Brisbane, that his print news on Middle Eastern events is “filtered” by Murdoch’s “Courier Mail”, the city’s only daily newspaper. Proof of direct control from a “Big Brother” behind Murdoch is dramatically provided in A Friends of the ABC article (www.fabc.org.au/vic.). On October 23, 2003, former employee Charlie Reina blew the whistle on just how shamelessly Murdoch’s number one American propaganda outlet – Fox News Channel, the ‘Fair and Balanced’ network, works to corrode the democratic pact between government and governed by the roots of Fox News Channel’s day-to-day on-air bias are actually created and direct. They come in the form of ‘Executive Memo’ distributed electronically each morning, addressing what stories will be covered and, often suggesting how they should be covered. In such a manner, the Murdoch-Fox media can slant the news to suit themselves. While in Australia in this approach it is applied to sway evenly-divided public opinion two to four percent near to election times, bringing dividends to the Zionist cause, such as to win by any means necessary, by winning by their preferred candidates, the continuation of theIraqi occupation. Murdoch has shown himself to be an unrepentant advocate of the invasion of Iraq, and the ill-fated battles of the US aggressive campaign for the sovereignty of Iraq.

In other words, the sovereign country of Australia will slowly succumb to the influence of Murdoch’s media. The erstwhile Australian bush is now great concern with moves of Murdoch, the pro-Israel Lobby and national media, and the concentration of power in the hands of over muddling a person’s name and came under sustained coordinated criticism in The Australian, which subsequently published “public opinion” polls that were unsurprisingly negative? This fuelled the change of leadership to a more Israeli-friendly leader, Kevin Rudd.

“...approach is applied it can sway evenly-divided public opinion two to four percent near to election times,...”

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Destabilizing the Horn

By Safiyi Lone

The stability that emerged in southern Somalia after sixteen years of utter lawlessness is gone, the defeat of the ruling Islamic Courts Union now ushering in both a brutal law and the prospect of another major anti-American insurgency. Clan warlords, who terrorized Somalia until they were driven out by the Islamists and who were put back in power by the U.S.-backed and -trained Ethiopian army, have begun carving up the country once again.

With these developments, the Bush administration, undeterred by the horrors and setbacks in Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon, has opened another battlefront in one volatile quarter of the Muslim world. As with Iraq, it casts this ill-advised war as a way to curtail terrorism, but its real goal is to protect the interests of American business in the Horn of Africa, as well as to use the area's importance, Gen. John Abizaid, the top commander of U.S. forces in the region, has repeatedly made clear, specifically for Africa. As evidence of the area's importance, Gen. John Abizaid, the military commander of the region, visited Djibouti last month to discuss commerce in Somalia, while Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Horn countries a few months ago in search of oil and trade agreements.

The current series of events began with the rise of the Islamic Courts more than a year ago. The Islamists avoided large-scale violence in defeating the warlords, who had held sway in Somalia ever since they drove out U.N. peacekeepers by killing eighteen American soldiers in 1993, by rallying people to their side through establishing law and order. Washington was wary, fearing their possible support for terrorists. While they have denied any such intentions, many people believe the Islamists do have terrorist ties, but these have been vastly overstated in the West.

Washington, however, chose to view the situation only through the prism of its own interests. It created a vacuum specifically for Africa. As evidence of the area's importance, Gen. John Abizaid, the military commander of the region, visited Djibouti last month to discuss commerce in Somalia, while Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Horn countries a few months ago in search of oil and trade agreements.

The United States, whose troops have been the source of contention for Somali residents in the region, neighboring Somalia, next turned to the U.N. Security Council. In another craven act resembling its post facto legalization of the U.S. occupation of Iraq, the Council bowed to U.S. pressure and authorized a regional peacekeeping force to enter Somalia to protect the government and “restore peace and stability.” This despite the fact that the U.N. has no right under its charter to intervene on behalf of one of the parties struggling for political supremacy, and that peace and stability had already been restored by the Islamists.

The war came soon after the U.N. resolution, its outcome a foregone conclusion thanks to the highly trained and war-seasoned Ethiopian army. The African Union called for Ethiopia to end the invasion, but the U.N. Security Council made no such call. Ban Ki-moon, the incoming secretary-general, is being urged to treat the problem with equal importance in Darfur and his political challenge, but Somalia, while less complex, is more immediate. He has an opportunity to establish his credentials as an impartial broker in the African Union's Charter by seeking Ethiopia's withdrawal.

The Ethiopian military presence in Somalia is inflammatory and will destabilize this region and threaten Kenya, a U.S. ally and the only island of stability in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia is at even greater risk, as a dictatorship with little popular support and beset by two large internal revolts by Oromo and Somali demonstrators. It is also mired in a military stalemate with Eritrea, which has denied it secure access to seaports. It now seeks such access in Somalia.

The best antitode to terrorism in Somalia is to get Ethiopia out. The Islamic Courts should be allowed to dominate the world.

The Islamic Courts should be allowed to continue their work, and the government should be allowed to dominate.

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**The Disempowerment of Islam in Australia**

By Tahira Rane

The MEDIA's representation of Islam, post September 11 2001 has contributed to the disempowerment and marginalization of Australian Muslims and has allowed the dominant culture to become further empowered. This depiction, somewhat led to the racial violence of the 2005 Cronulla Riots and the articulated an absence of respect to multiculturalism within Australia. The Western public has become misinformed about the religion of Islam due to the government and the thoughts of the dominant language, disability, gender, or place of birth; the right of all Australians to equality of treatment and opportunity and the removal of barriers to equal participation in Australian society. It's key points are: cultural identity – the right of all Australians within carefully defined limits, to express, and share their individual cultural beliefs, values, language and religion; social justice – the right of all Australians to equality of treatment and opportunity and the removal of barriers to equal participation in Australian society. The Cronulla Riots do not correlate with the multicultural policy enforced within Australia, this has contributed to the disempowerment of Islam and caused the effect of the multicultural policy to be questioned. The Government can be blamed to a significant degree for its influence on anti-multiculturalism. Post September 11, the Howard government has a lot to answer for the dangerous race-based populism they have encouraged. It is about time we start some long term hard work to undo some of the damage done by the vilifying and ripping apart of multiculturalism. The Cronulla Riots were depicted by the media as a “terror” which is true to its teachings, post terror attacks on September 11.

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Sankore University: Rediscover the Glory

WHERE WOULD A 16TH CENTURY seeker of knowledge want to go to excel in scholarship and literacy? The Sankore University would be a top preference.

Sankore University, also known as Sankore Masjed or University of Timbuktu, is one of three ancient centers of learning in Timbuktu, Mali, West Africa. During the 14th-16th century, Sankore University enrolled more foreign students than New York University today.

Today, the intellectual legacy of Timbuktu is neglected in historical discourse. These pages of our history tend to get ripped out.

Structure and History

What began as a simple mosque built on order of the city’s chief judge in 989 AD, eventually expanded into a large campus of 590 buildings set around the vast open courtyard of the mosque. The mosque’s courtyard was built in the exact dimensions of the Kabu, located in the city of Makkah, using a rope for precise measurements. The large pyramidal Mihrab remains the most prominent feature of this building.

With the financial help of a female philanthropist from Mandaka, and support from the centre of learning, Sankore University flourished. Askia Dynasty (1439-1591 AD), Sankore University established itself as the leader in religious and secular education and attracted several thousand foreign students from around the world. But the structure is not the real source of its glory. It is the celebration of this university as one of the world’s significant seats of learning and as a community of matchless Muslim scholars during the 14th-16th century. The diverse ethnic and religious composition of students attending Sankore University made it a model of true multiculturalism.

Education System and Graduation

Sankore University was unique in organization to the universities of medieval Europe. It had the central administration, student registers, or prescribed courses of study; rather, it was composed of several independent schools or colleges, each run by its own scholars. Successful students learned from a single teacher and classes took place in the open courtyards of mosques or private residences.

While the method of enrollment and scholastic is liberal and extensive, the curriculum was intense and comprehensive, including religious and secular subjects. There were four levels of degrees offered by Sankore University.

On graduation day, students were awarded Turban. The turban symbolized Divine light, wisdom, knowledge and high moral conduct. It represented a demarcation line between knowledge and ignorance. The knots and circles of the turban depicted the name Allah, which implied that the student was now obligated to share his knowledge and expertise with fellow human beings in an honorable fashion.

Other renowned scholars of Sankore University were Mohammad Bagayogo and Abu-Bakr. The badges of the scholars, Abu al-Abbas Ahmad Buryu ibn, Ag Mohammed ibn Uthman, Abul Abdallah, and Ag Mohammad ibn al-Mukhtar an-Nawahi.

Wisdom Unearthed

Over a million manuscripts were recently re-discovered in Timbuktu, Mali and thousands more in West Africa. The variety of topics these manuscripts cover is phenomenal.

As the historian, Runoko Rashidi, points out, “The collection of ancient manuscripts at the University of Sankore is the largest in the world...one can only wonder in amazement at the size and scope of this collection and the variety of topics it addresses.”

Intellectual Legacy of Africa

The manuscripts, incredibly rich in content and context, illustrate the depth and breadth of Islamic civilization, and provide a window into the social, political, and economic fabric of Africa. This legacy is essential for understanding the development of Africa and its impact on the world.

The Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies

The Centre for Islamic Studies is a significant Australian Government supported initiative under the National Action Plan to Build on National Cohesion, Harmony and Security. The Centre will provide tertiary education opportunities for Australian students, particularly in the fields of Islamic Studies, in order to foster a better understanding of Islam and its impact on contemporary Australia. The Centre will also provide opportunities for students to engage with Islamic communities and develop an understanding of the diversity of Islamic beliefs and practices.

The Centre will be established at the University of Western Sydney, with a focus on research and teaching in Islamic Studies. It will provide a range of educational and research opportunities, including undergraduate and postgraduate courses, as well as workshops and seminars. The Centre will also engage with Australian communities, particularly those with Muslim backgrounds, to promote greater understanding and respect for Islamic traditions and values.

The Centre will be led by a Director, who will be appointed by the Australian Government. The Director will be responsible for the overall direction and management of the Centre, including the development of research and teaching programs, and the establishment of partnerships with other universities and institutions.

The Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies will be a significant step in efforts to promote a greater understanding of Islam and its impact on contemporary Australia. It will provide opportunities for students to engage with Islamic communities and develop an understanding of the diversity of Islamic beliefs and practices, and will contribute to the development of a more inclusive and cohesive Australian society.
No Poor People in Australia – A Myth

R E C E N T L Y I A T T E N D E D A khutbah where the imam declared that since “there were no poor people in Australia” we should give our charity (zakat, qurbani, sadqah jariya) overseas.

This is one of the most common misconceptions about poverty that most Muslims have about Australian society. Yes, Australia does not have the abject poverty known to many of us that exist in many Muslim countries around the world but to say that poverty does not exist in Australia is false and misleading.

Poverty is relative to each society and we need to look to people in need in Australia before we start looking for poor people overseas. Caring for our neighbours and community in the country of residence is an important duty of Muslims.

If Muslims need to see poverty in Australia firsthand I invite you to go to the Brisbane CBD at around 7pm and see the hundreds of homeless people that live in our city who probably go home to an average soup kitchen and ask us why we did not help these people!

I also invite you to contact organisations that deal with refugees and see how many of our brothers and sisters from Iraq and Afghanistan are being subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment. Many cannot call their families overseas as they have no money to do so. Many do not have benefits for winter and other necessities that we take for granted. They are treated like criminals and we have done nothing to help them! When Allah asks us on the Day of judgement what we did for our brothers and sisters right here in Australia, what are we going to say?

People keep telling me that the Australian government and our great social welfare system (“Centrelink”) will take care of them. What about those who fall through the cracks in the system. What about those permanent residence visa holders who cannot go to Centrelink for the first two years of arrival and cannot find work and support themselves? What about unemployed people who have no place to live so cannot get Centrelink payments as they do not have an address?

Ponder the following facts listed on the website:

The Salvation Army and the National Coalition Against Poverty

The Salvation Army estimates that there are 2.5 million Australians living in poverty, which is approximately 12% of the population. This is an increase of 400,000 people in the last three years, or an additional 0.5% of Australians living in poverty since 2002.

The Salvation Army submission to the Senate’s Inquiry into Poverty and Hardship stresses that despite the increased wealth in Australia, where GDP has grown from $180 billion in 1992 to $830 billion in 2000, poverty still limits the lives of many Australians.

In 2004, 1.5 million Australians sought help from The Salvation Army, an increase of 11% from the previous year. This increased demand reflects the poverty and hardship experienced by many people in Australia.


Austalian Poverty

• The life expectancy of indigenous Australians is 20 years less than for other Australians. It is similar to Bangladesh, yet Australia is ten times richer.

• About a quarter of a million Australian jobseekers have not had substantial work for a year or more. Many have had little or no work for two years.

• More than 10% of the workforce are unemployed or want more work. The number of jobseekers greatly exceeds the number of job vacancies.

• About half a million families have no members in paid work.

• Each night, about 100 homeless families cannot find places in refuges.


So next time you hear someone, tell you there are no poor people in Australia, tell them to get their facts right!
This Road is for Jews Only

Yes, there is Apartheid in Israel

By Shulamit Aloni

JEWISH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS IS taken for granted among ourselves to such an extent that we fail to see what’s right in front of our eyes. It’s simply inconceivable that the ultimate victims, the Jews, can carry out evil deeds. Nevertheless, the state of Israel practises its own, quite violent, form of Apartheid with the native Palestinian population.

The US Jewish Establishment’s onslaught on the former President Jimmy Carter is based on the fact that he actually paid attention to the human rights of the Palestinians. This is what really provoked controversy.

1300 664 850

In the past, the US Jewish community’s leaders were quite familiar with the meaning of those conventions. For some reason, however, they are convinced that Israel is allowed to contravene them. It’s OK to kill civilians, women and children, as long as it is done deliberately or otherwise without accepting any responsibility. It’s permissible to rob people of their lands, destroy their crops, and cage them up like animals in the zoo. From now on, Israelis and International human rights organisations’ volunteers are prohibited from assisting a woman in labour by taking her to the hospital. (Israelis human rights group) Yesh Din volunteers cannot take a robbed and beaten-up Palestinian to the police station to lodge a complaint. (Police stations are located at the heart of the settlements.) Is there anyone who believes that this is not Apartheid?

Jimmy Carter does not need me to define his reputation that has been sullied by Israelophile community officials. The trouble is that their love of Israel distorts their judgment and blinds them from seeing what’s in front of them. Israel is an occupying power that has held 40 years of Israeli occupation. It is an indigenous people, which is entitled to a sovereign and independent existence while living in peace with us. We should remember that people and families are affected by their actions, not the foreign rule because we wanted our own state. And the list of victims of terror is quite long and extensive.

We do limit ourselves to denying the (Palestinian) people’s right to self-determination. The US Jewish community recognises the (International Convention on Human Rights). The (Elmination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 7 March 1966) to which Israel is a signatory? Are the US Jews who believe that this is not Apartheid? Did he exaggerate? Don’t the enemies of Israel. Hooray for our brothers and sisters in the US! Your devotion is very much appreciated. We have truly removed a nasty stain from us. Now there can be an extra spring in our step as we confidently abuse the Palestinian population, using the “most moral army in the world”.

Employees cannot be paid their wages because Israel is holding 500 million shekels that belong to the Palestinians. And after all that we remain “pure as the driven snow”. There are no moral blemishes on our actions. There is no racial separation. There is no apartheid. It’s an invention of the enemies of Israel. Hooray for our brothers and sisters in the US! Your devotion is very much appreciated. We have truly removed a nasty stain from us. Now there can be an extra spring in our step as we confidently abuse the Palestinian population, using the “most moral army in the world”.

Al Jazeera English

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Compensating Your Loss of Reputation
People who have suffered loss of reputation due to defamation are entitled to compensatory damages. Compensatory damages may comprise general damages, special damages and aggravated damages and may be awarded to compensate you for your injury to reputation, injury to feelings, injury to health and pecuniary loss.

Aggravated damages are awarded where the conduct of the accused, at the time of the publication or subsequently (including during the course of the trial) has made the persons injury worse. The conduct of the accused need not be malicious, but must in some way be unjustifiable, improper or lacking in bona fides. A refusal to retract or apologise, and the failure to establish a defence, may be cause for an award of aggravated damages.

There are a number of defences to an action in defamation and Court will generally take into consideration a range of factors, such as an apology, to reduce or limit the damages awarded to the person defamed. If you have been defamed or are a party to a defamation action contact Sam Hammadileh on (07) 5584 9000 for a free initial consultation.

Police圩tary REENTROPIC

The Islamic College of Brisbane provides Islamic and Secular Education of the highest quality in an Islamic Environment for success in this life and the hereafter. The College firmly believes that a strong foundation in Islamic values and morals assists students to behave better and excel in academic education. Consequently, the College aims to equip students with good Islamic values and strong academic background to enable them to become good Australian Muslims capable of contributing to the development of the Islamic community and Australia as a whole.

The College has a very good track record of producing excellent results in Year 12, Literacy and Numeracy Year 3, 5 and 7 Tests and Australasian Schools Competitions.

New enrolments for 2007 are accepted now from Year 1- Year 11. For further details, please contact the school secretaries or the Principal in person, by phone or email.

Sam Hammadileh is a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia. This article is written as general advice only and does not constitute legal advice for your specific situation. If you require legal advice please contact Ledger Commercial & Property Lawyers on (07) 5584 9000.
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AUSTRALIAN OWNED & OPERATED
Australian owned Soul has been serving Australia for over 100 years. You know us as Washington H.I. Soul Pattinson. Now our advanced broadband network is saving Australians wherever they live.
The Islamic Society of Algester held their annual Madrassah Jalsah on Sunday 17 December 2006 at Springwood Community Hall. Programme commenced at 1:00pm.

Students ranging from Grade One to Grade Seven participated in the programme. From speeches to Qass’a’d to Class plays, all the students did their best.

Parents and visitors were overwhelmed by the success of the programme.

Special guests were the principal of Kuraby Madrassah, Sheikh Ahmed Abu Ghuzala and Sheikh Abdul Qadir from the Logan Masjid who was given the honor to hand out the prizes for each grade.

The principal and staff of the Algester Madrassah thanks everyone who attended to make the programme a success.

See you at the next Jalsah in 2007.

You are strong
You are strong... when you take your grief and teach it to smile.
You are brave... when you overcome your fear and help others to do the same.
You are happy... when you see a flower and are thankful for the blessing.
You are loving... when your own pain does not blind you to the pain of others.
You are wise... when you know the limits of your wisdom.
You are true... when you admit there are times you fool yourself.
You are alive... when tomorrow’s hope means more to you than yesterday’s mistake.
You are growing... when you know that you are but not what you are becoming.
You are free... when you are in control of yourself but do not wish to control others.
You are honourable... when you find your honour is to honour others.
You are generous... when you can give as sweetly as you take.
You are humble... when you do not know how humble you are.
You are handsome / beautiful... when you don’t need a mirror to tell you.
You are rich... when you never need more than you have.
You are you... when you are at peace with who you are not.
Do Something that will Make a Difference for Your Parents

Af ter 21 YEARS OF MARRI age, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner. She said I love you but I know this other woman loves you MORE and would love to spend some time with you. The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my MOTHER, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally.

Su rah 2. Al-Baqara
215. They ask thee, (O Muhammad), what they shall spend. Say: That which ye spend for good (must go) to parents and near kindred and orphans and the needy and the wayfarer. And whatsoever good ye do, lo! Allah is Aware of it.

That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner. “What’s wrong, are you well,” she said. “I told my friends that I was going to dinner. They can’t wait to hear about our meeting”. We went to a restaurant that, “They had decided to invite me and my wife to sit with them.”

Su rah 4. An-Nisa
36. And serve Allah. Ascribe no thing as partner unto Him. (Show) kindness unto parents.

“...It was I who used to have to read the menu for you and the other for your wife. You are the one who tells me what to order.”

Su rah 29. Al-Ankabut
8: We have enjoined on man kindness to parents... but nevertheless, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You are the one who tells me what to order...

As we arrived at her house later, she said, “I would like to have the two of us.” She thought about it for a moment, and then said, “I would like that very much.”

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up she was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her wedding.

Su rah 1. Ibrahim
36. Our Lord! Forgive me and my parents, and that I may do right unto parents.

My Lord! Arouse me that I may give thanks for the favour where with Thou hast favoured me and my parents, and that I may do right unto You. And be gracious unto Me In the matter of my seed. Lo! I have turned unto Thee repentant, and lo! I am of those who surrender (unto Thee).

At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: “I LOVE YOU!” and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than Allah and your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off till “some other time.”

Su rah 14. Ibrahim
41. Our Lord! Forgive me and my parents and believers on the day when the account is cast.
Questions to ask your agent

Selling your Home

10 Questions to ask your agent

RECENTLY, MY WIFE got the bug to move to a new house. Our brother was (I quickly killed that bug – we are NOT moving). I did however have a chance to interview 4 Real Estate agents. I quickly learned that they are not all created equal. I took some notes specifically for Dumb Little Man. Here are the questions I asked, the answers I got, and the answers I wanted to hear.

Q: How are you going to advertise my home?
A: Your home will be in newspapers, the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), our realty website, neighborhood postcards, open houses, etc. We will also advertise it on billboards, send mass mailings/emails so we are constantly driving traffic and eyes to your house.

TIP: How often are these things being done?
A: We are doing an analysis so we know what similar homes are selling for in your area which is BS for we run a little query on home sales within 5 miles of your home.

TIP: Ask to see the comparisons (called “comps”). High volume agents may be motivated to list your house too high because they don’t need the quick commission. An new agent may list a house too low just to sell it quickly and get paid. Bottom line is that it’s your house and you need to do homework to ensure you’re asking the right price. Do not simply take their word for it.

Q: Is your realty company placing pictures on your website and other listing services?
A: Of course, we can do that.

TIP: Who is taking the pictures, when will I think it’s worth $25K?
A: We do an analysis so we know what similar homes are selling for in your area (which is BS for we run a little query on home sales within 5 miles of your home).

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Q: Why are you saying my house is worth $250,000 when I think it’s worth $325K?
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Q: Will you be at the closing or will you send a lackey?
A: No, there are confidentiality rules.

TIP: No. You are about to pay this agent some money and you want prospective buyers being spammed. why? I am promoting my house and I don’t want any other agents.”

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Our 2006 YEAR 7 graduates celebrated their graduation at Michael’s Oriental Restaurant on Wednesday, 6 December 2006. Our stunning young ladies and handsome gentlemen, together with their proud parents, made their entrance onto the Michael’s Oriental Restaurant at 7 pm. The school staff, including teachers, Imams, teacher aides, admin staff and the bus drivers were also present with their spouses. To add value to the occasion members of the Australian Islamic Educational Trust, the School board members and key stake holders also joined in the graduation function.

With photos taken and parents able to enjoy the beginning of a wonderful night, students, staff and guests sat in their respective seats in the Michael’s Oriental Restaurant’s Hall, reserved for the occasion to enjoy the delicious dinner and were made welcome by Zafeerena Sharif, Master of ceremony. She was the proceeding by inviting Uzair Khan to a recitation of the Quran and its meaning followed by the retiring Principal Shahid Khan address to the audience. In his speech he emphasised the importance of education and also reflected on the new challenges to be faced by today’s young generation including global warming, life long learning and longevity beyond 100 years. The new Principal: Peter Michalski was introduced to the audience. Mr Michalski congratulated year 7 Graduates for a successful year and encouraged them to take up the challenge of life long learning.

The official presentation for the evening concluded with the year 7 students’ speeches reflecting their experiences in the Brisbane Muslim School. The main theme of their speeches was the school’s caring environment where they felt safe and proud to be a Muslim. At Brisbane Muslim School they were able to learn to recite Quran, celebrate Islamic religious functions and above all able to pray in congregation at Zuhur time and also attend Friday prayers.

The last formal event was the presentation of two perpetual trophies: Yasin Abdel-Mageed was awarded the most improved student in Academic Performance and General Attitude. Miss Zafeerena Sharif received an award for the best student who exemplifies the Islamic ethos of the school. These Trophies were sponsored by AL-NISA Youth Group and Faiza EL-Higzi in memory of her father.

At the end of the evening the Year 7 Graduation cake was cut in the presence of Year 7 Graduates and their proud parents and was served as dessert at the tables. Congratulations to our 2006 Graduates for a successful future and thoroughly enjoyable Year 7 Graduation.

Many thanks to teachers and support staff who organised such a wonderful evening and a memorable Year 7 Graduation.

It is with great pleasure we announce that the AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AISLAMIC COLLEGE (AIC) is now constructing permanent classroom buildings with Islamic Character including arches, domes and minarets. The master plan of the AIC was drawn by the world renowned Architect Mr Musthag Ahmed.

Mr Musthag Ahmed shared his vision with us on Eidul Fitre celebration of 2004 held at Michael’s Oriental Restaurant. The colourful 3D presentation was highly appreciated by the Muslim community present at the function.

The Master Plan of the school has been approved by the Brisbane city council. The local Architect Mr Kevin Smith has incorporated arches in the classroom building to reflect the Islamic character.

We are pleased to inform you that eight (8) classroom building is nearly complete. That is the builder Mr Hable says that everything is now ready except the painting, flooring, tiling and finishing touches. The builder is confident to hand over the building before classes begins in 2007.

All members of the Muslim Community are invited to attend the following function at the School Campus.

**School’s Open day**
Sunday: 21 January 2007
10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Please visit the building site while attending the above functions and see yourself the progress of building which we expect will be ready for Term 1, 2007.
**Christians in Syria**

**KURAYB MADRASAH CELEBRATED the Graduation of the students of 2006. All classes from Grade 1 to Grade 8 performed various items that reflected what they learnt throughout the course of the year. Themes covered in the presentations included Islamic Brotherhood, love and unity. Grades 1 and 2 presented a beautiful song on the love of Allah SWT and being close to Him. The grade 1 enlightened the audience with a dramatic play on the Importance of Achieving Love and Unity in our Communities that was very well performed with the guidance of Muallimah Safia Casoojee and Amina Sayed. The grade 3 students presented a song that explains the significance of the pillars of Islam in our life it was a song that involved the audience and had them singing along with the title “Allahu Akbar”. This was led by Muallimah Safina Aku.

Grade 4 students presented a play on harmony and tolerance. In their play, they displayed examples of what many Muslim children go through in the State School system due to the misunderstanding and lack of knowledge that many people have regarding Islam. It was clear that the students are well equipped to encounter such challenges at Schools if faced by such. This was led by Muallimah Aarefah Ismail.

The Grade 6 Students presented a play on Eidul Adhaa and they were very informative as they mentioned the etiquettes and manners of this Festival they were trained by the two Huffaz, Luqman and Omar Issadin. The senior class in the Madrasah – Grade 8 presented a play on Hajj particularly the different tests that pilgrims face and the correct attitudes towards these tests. They were directed by Muallimah Nazira Mahomedy.

All students received their Madrasah Report Cards and there was special recognition for the High Achievers and some scattered protestants), you are about as likely to find a church as a mosque while walking in the major cities. The first thing any Christian leader will tell you is how good the relations are between the various churches (the Greek-orthodox and the Syrian-orthodox share communions), as well as between Christians and Muslims. Mor Matta Roham, the Bishop in Hassake, told us during our trip which took place during the end of Ramadan, that the clergy of the city would, for the festival, go around to the leaders of the Muslim tribes and offer their congratulations. At Christmas and Easter (national holidays in Syria) the Muslim leaders would in turn visit the Bishops. In Aleppo we were told that during the celebrations of Aleppo as the capital of Islamic Culture in 2006, a public seminar would be held where one of the priests in the Syrian-Orthodox community had been invited to lecture of the role of Christians in the formation of Islamic Culture. In other words, as things are now, Syria is probably the place in the Middle East were the Christian minority is best off. Of course, you could hear it in the way that the Bishops and Patriarchs we met emphasized their good relations, that they are fully aware (and want us to be aware too), that this will change the day the first American bomb falls over Damascus, the Syrian Christians see themselves as having a crucial role in the relationship between east and west. “As long as we are here it will not be possible for the Muslims to equate American and European foreign policy with Christianity. As long as we are here the Muslims can see that they are not the same thing, that it is not Christianity that motivates the hostile acts of the west”, Patriarch Gregory III Laham (Greek Catholic) told us. I must confess that some of the Christian communities I visited in Syria seemed more dynamic and alive than anything I’ve seen in the West. In Hassake, the Syrian-Orthodox have recently finished building a huge school-building, and are already working on the next. They have well over a thousand students (about 20% are Muslim children). One of the exodus of Christians from the Middle East is that those who stay receive financial support from those that leave for the west. But they certainly seem to put the money to good use, building up not only the community of their own but fostering good relations with other communities as well. The overwhelming feeling I got when traveling around Syria was that if the west would only leave this part of the world alone, they would be fully competent to sort of their problems themselves.
The Wisdom Behind Calamities

1 – To attain true submission and servitude (uboodiyyah) to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.

Many people are slaves to their whims and desires and are not true slaves of Allah. They say that they are slaves of Allah, but when they are tested they turn on their heels and lose out in this world and in the Hereafter, and that is an evident loss.

2 – Trials prepare the believers to prevail on earth.

It was said to Imam al-Shafi‘i’s (may Allah have mercy on him): Which is better, patience or tests or prevailing? He said: Prevailing is the level attained by the Prophets, and there can be no prevailing except after trials. If a person is tried he will become patient, and if he remains patient he will prevail.

3 – Expiation of sins

Al-Tirmidhi narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Trials will continue to befoul the believing man or woman in himself, his child and his wealth until he meets Allah with no sin on him.”

4 – Attainment of reward and a rise in status

Muslim narrated that Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “The believer is not harmed by a thorn or anything greater, but Allah will raise him in status thereby, or erase a sin thereby.”

5 – Calamities provide an opportunity to think about one's faults and shortcomings and past mistakes.

6 – Calamity is a lesson in Tawheed, faith and trust in Allah.

It shows us a practical sense which we really are, so we will realize that we are a weak slave, and we have no strength and no power except with our Lord, then we will put our trust in Him in a true sense, and will put aside our position, we will put our trust in Him in a true sense, and will put aside our position.

7 – Calamities drive out self-admiration from our hearts and bring them closer to Allah.

Ibn al-Qayyim said in Zad al-Ma‘aad (3/477), “In His wisdom, Allah decreed that the Muslims should first taste the bitterness of defeat, despite their great numbers and adequate equipment and strength, so as to humble some people who felt proud.”

8 – To demonstrate the true nature of people, for there are people whose virtue is unknown until calamity strikes

Al-Fadayi ibn Iyad said, “As long as people are doing fine, their true nature is concealed, but when calamity strikes, their true natures are revealed, so the believer resorts to his faith and the hypocrite resorts to his hypocrisy.”

9 – Calamities strengthen people’s resolve.

Allah chose for His Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) a hard life filled with all kinds of hardship from a young age, in order to prepare him for the great mission that awaited him, which none could bear but the strongest of men, who have gone through hardship and who are tested with calamities and bear them with patience.

10 – Another reason behind calamities and hardship is that a person becomes able to distinguish between true friends and friends who only have their own interests at heart.

11 – Calamities remind us of our sins so that we can repent from them.

Calamities offer an opportunity to repent before the greater punishment comes on the Day of Resurrection. If life continues to be easy, a person may become conceited and arrogant, and think that he has no need of Allah, so by His mercy He tests people so that they may return to Him.

12 – Calamities show you the true nature of this world and its transience, and that it is temporary conveniences, and show us that true life is that which is beyond this world, in a life in which there is no sickness or exhaustion.

13 – Calamities remind us of the great blessings of good health and ease.

14 – Longing for Paradise.

We will never long for Paradise until we taste the bitterness of this world. How can we long for Paradise when we are content with this world?

Source: “Wisdom Behind Calamities” – Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid

Dying trade of the Sahara Camel Train

By John Pilkingtom, BBC News, Mali

TIMBUKTU, CAMEL TRAINS, that for millennia have been trudging around the Sahara with their valuable cargoes, are being replaced by the truck and the aeroplane.

I have always been fascinated by the Sahara - so when I heard that camel caravans still make the 450-mile journey from the Taoudenni salt mines to Timbuktu, I decided to go and see if this was true.

What I found there was the stuff of dreams. Every week between November and February, caravans of up to 50 camels set out from Timbuktu on the month-long round trip.

Each camel brings four huge slabs of salt, the so-called “white gold” of the Sahara.

A thousand years ago Sahara salt was literally worth its weight in gold, so the deposits at Taoudenni in what’s now northern Mali must have been quite a find.

In Timbuktu I started looking for a guide and some camels of my own. This proved quite easy - Timbuktu is that sort of place - and I soon signed up with U Batna, an Arabic speaking Moor who was the proud owner of three good-looking beasts.

U Batna was from one of the nomadic families who grazed sheep and goats on the spiky desert grass around Timbuktu, wrapped in his desert robes and turban scanning the horizon and puffing on his cow-bone pipe - he looked the perfect Lawrence of Arabia.

I could not speak Arabic but as the trip progressed he taught me all the words needed to understand like “camel”, “sand”, “thirsty” and “keep walking”.

There was no road - we just headed due north. Fodder for the camels was always a problem, and sometimes we would keep going long into the night looking for it, finally stopping to cook rice on camel-dung campfires and sleeping on the stars.

On the other hand water was never a worry. As everyone knows, a camel can survive for a month without water, and I found that it can also carry up to 80 litres for its human companions - either in leather pouches (nicely traditional, but leaky) or in more watertight inner tubes from old car tyres.

After three weeks we arrived at Taoudenni and I was utterly shocked. This community of 120 men, one of the remotest on earth, had no houses, no fresh water, no medicines, no electricity, no telephone - not even any cooking fuel apart from camel dung.

A camel carcass lay gutting away in the open air. At this time of year, daytime temperatures are in the upper 30s Celsius. In summer they can reach 50° that’s more than a 120 degrees Fahrenheit. It is a posting from Hell.

But amazingly I found the salt miners friendly and happy to talk.

In medieval times they would have been slaves. Then in the 1960s they were political prisoners; now they are mostly self-employed desperadoes trying just to try to pay off debts.

I watched them hacking out the salt from a few feet under the surface, using crude axes in pits they had dug by hand.

On a good day a strong miner can produce perhaps eight 40 pound slabs, which the camel-drivers pay for in the time-honoured way by delivering one slab in every four to the miner’s house in Timbuktu.

The markup in price between Taoudenni and Timbuktu is what gives both miners and camel-drivers a living.

If all goes well, top-grade slab will fetch £1.60 ($3) at the pit but four times this in Timbuktu.

But it does not always go well. When a camel bolts or is badly loaded the slabs get broken, greatly reducing their value. If one of the broken ones has been earmarked for a miner’s house, that is the one that gets delivered. The camel-drivers pay no compensation - in fact no money changes hands at all.

New transport

Until lately the miners had no choice but to accept this unfair system, but now there is an alternative in the form of big lorries that have started to do the Taoudenni-Timbuktu round trip.

A camel takes a month to make the round trip to Taoudenni - the lorries can do it in a week.

From the miners’ point of view the lorry operators pay less per slab, but they pay on collection so cover the risk of breakages themselves. More importantly, they pay cash.

From Timbuktu the salt is shipped up to the River Niger to the port of Mopti, where Moorish traders sell it on to people from a wide swathe of West Africa.

After saying my farewells to U Batna I joined one of the longboats, which are called “pinasses”, and as we tied up on the Mopti waterfront I wondered about the future of the salt caravans.

Camels have the edge on lorries in that they do not need filling up with expensive diesel fuel.

This allows the caravans to bring in a decent profit and - literally - give the trucks a run for their money.

But will U Batna’s sons and grandsons want to spend their lives coaxing around the Sahara with their valuable cargoes, are being replaced by the truck and the aeroplane.
Protecting You and Your Family

INTEGRAL TO SOUND FINANCIAL planning is the provision of protection for your future and that of your family. The most effective investment strategy can prove fruitless if it does not include a financial recovery plan for unforeseen events. For example, if you become disabled, have an accident or die, for many of us, the ability to earn an income is one of our most valuable assets and your financial plan will be largely based on your earning capacity.

Protecting your income suddenly stopped: how exposed would you, your family, your investments, savings and future plans be?

A temporary interruption to your income earning capacity can have devastating, long term effects on your lifestyle and that of your family.

Some unexpected events can emotionally traumatic and while such events are usually capable of being dealt with, you can make sure that added financial pressure does not increase the burden on you and your family.

During times of illness, accident or death, relevant risk protection policies also indirectly affect your investment strategy and your assets so that such times are not financially devastating, hence unravelling all your hard work.

There are many risk protection policy packages and stand alone policies:

Trauma Insurance

Trauma insurance provides a lump sum payment when the insured person suffers a specified medical condition such as cancer, heart attack, major head trauma, severe burns or stroke.

Total Permanent Disability Insurance

Total and permanent disability insurance provides compensation for the insured person when the insured person becomes totally and permanently disabled.

Life Insurance

While nothing can make up for the loss of a family member, life insurance protects your family and your financial commitments.

Your financial advisor can recommend the most tax effective way for you to buy life insurance depending on your individual circumstances.

Business Expenses Income

Business expenses insurance enables self-employed people to cover certain fixed business expenses for each month or quarter if you are no longer able to work due to injury or illness. As an example, if you are unable to work for three months, your rent, telephone insurance, and revenue producing employee salaries may be covered by your business expenses policy. Rather than having to pay these expenses with your personal savings, you can apply for the lump sum payment at the time these are met and most importantly, that you have a business to go to when your recovery is complete.

Income Protection Insurance

Income protection insurance can provide you with up to 75 per cent replacement income for a set period of time if you are unable to work due to injury or illness. This policy is designed to help you stay on track financially while you recover from an illness or injury.

NAB Sheikh Fehmi El-Imam Scholarship

HELPING OUTSTANDING YOUNG Australians to realise their potential

As part of its commitment to supporting the development of Australian Muslims, NAB is proud to present the NAB Sheikh Fehmi El-Imam Scholarship. Designed to help strengthen the links between NAB and the Muslim community, the Scholarship will enable an outstanding student to continue their postgraduate studies in finance and economics, here in Australia or at an overseas university.

Our 2007 winner will receive a one-off study support payment of $22,000, which will cover tuition fees for further study, and employment with NAB (full time or part-time) for 12 months during or at the conclusion of their postgraduate studies (NAB will advise the student on the most appropriate program). The Scholarship will provide the winning student with the development of thought leadership across diverse fields while enabling the applicant to fulfill their personal and professional potential on the world stage.

The Scholarship will provide the winning student with the development of thought leadership across diverse fields while enabling the applicant to fulfill their personal and professional potential on the world stage.

Following a review of all submissions, a short list of applicants will be interviewed and a recommendation made to the NAB Sheikh El-Imam Scholarship Board. The Scholarship Board comprises senior representatives from NAB and the Muslim community.

The successful applicant will be notified in January 2007.

*About Shariah compliant financial products and services: Shariah compliant financial products and services allow Muslims consumers to participate in financial transactions in a manner that is in accordance with their belief system. Shariah compliant finance is a burgeoning market trend across the Middle East and Asia and is also growing rapidly throughout Western Europe and North America.

**Membership of the NAB Sheikh Fehmi El-Imam Scholarship Board is comprised of senior NAB executives and respected members of the Islamic community.

Sheikh Fehmi El-Imam

Sheikh Fehmi El-Imam (AM, JP) is one of the longest-standing members of the Australian Muslim community. Secretary-General of the Victorian Board of Imams and Senior Imam at the Preston Mosque in Melbourne’s northern suburbs. Sheikh Fehmi El-Imam is a leading figure in the Australian Islamic community and a great philanthropist.

In 2001, he was awarded the Order of Australia for services to community participant with a track record of tolerance and harmony between Muslims and the wider community in a bid to realise the ideal of a multi-faith and multicultural Australia. The Sheikh has also initiated many philanthropic activities, including the Islamic Community Auxiliary for the Removal of Human Remains (I-CARM) and the I-CARM Shire Project.

The Sheikh is highly respected throughout Australia across government, inter-faith, community groups across the wider community. It is with pleasure that NAB name this scholarship in his honour.

Sponsor an Entire School for $4,000 a Year in Rural Indonesia.

This is Sadaqah Jariyah

Help provide scholarships for students and teachers to continue their education. Special assistance for orphans, training village people, building, renovating and outfitting schools.

Putting in toilets, wudu and bathing facilities. Your sadaqah and zakat may be sent to: Indonesia: ANZ PANIN, Jakarta Head Office, a/c # 591917-3001. (Swift Code: ANZ BI DIX)

Account number: Nayasana Jakarta International Muslim Society Australia:

National Australia Bank, BSB 085.949, A/C # 02713.1086, A/C name L.H. Landy

Enquiries: email luqmanhalandy@islamic-paths.zzn.com, yjimshl@yahoo.com, fax +61.719, mobile +62813 8169 0289.

Website: www.jimsfoundation.com

Australian mobile: 0411 807 760

18 QUEENSLAND MUSLIM TIMES – January 2007/Muharram 1428

No matter how careful you are, long term disabilities can occur and they can be devastating.

Consider for a moment what would happen if you could never work again. Would you be able to meet your financial commitments while maintaining your quality of life?

The day to day cost of living does not disappear if you become totally and permanently disabled. Rather, you may be faced with additional medical and recovery costs which are not covered by your existing policies.

One way to protect yourself is by taking out Total and Permanent Disablement (TPD) insurance. This is sometimes offered as a stand alone benefit, however it is usually an option on Term Life cover. It provides a lump sum payment should a person suffer a sickness or injury which leaves them totally and permanently disabled.

TPD claimants often find this payment useful to cover things like home modifications, hiring home care services such as nursing or cleaning and any debis. Some leading financial services organisations have recently introduced a new Stand Alone TPD insurance policy which allows you to hold TPD without having attached death cover. Let’s look at an illustration of this policy.

Case Study

Asad had been working as a self-employed builder since completing his apprenticeship. When he turned 33, Asad went to a financial adviser to discuss his financial situation.

Asad had been working in the construction industry for 10 years. As an employee of Asad’s wealth protection, his financial adviser recommended that he take out a Stand Alone TPD policy. This policy would provide a lump sum benefit should he suffer from a sickness or injury that would permanently prevent him from working.

A year ago, Asad was involved in a serious car accident causing severe damage to his right hand. The injury was such that Asad would never be able to work as a builder again. Asad took out the Stand Alone TPD policy and was paid a lump sum benefit under his Stand Alone TPD policy. He used this to clear his mortgage, replace his income and pay for the costs associated with his disability.

Speak to your financial adviser about TPD insurance to see if it suits your individual circumstances. Together with your adviser you can create a wealth protection plan that suits your specific situation and ensure you’re covered against the unexpected. You should consider the relevant product disclosure statement before you make any decisions to acquire a product.

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Child Safety in the Driveway

By Awatif Al-Madi, Ex Registered Nurse and Ex Child Care Worker from 1990-2004

1. Never reverse your car when any children are around, sometimes children don’t show in your mirror because they are too small, and you can kill or badly hurt your own child or other people’s.

2. In the car, babies have to be restrained in a safety capsule (it can be hired from the ambulance service, ask the health sister). Never sit in the front seat, and breast or bottle feed a baby. With any strong brake action, the baby can be hurt your own child or other people’s.

3. Children must wear seat belt all the time. Younger children must have their own seat with belt. (it can be hired from ambulance service too).

4. Always keep a bottle of milk, and water for the children and adults. You might get stuck in the traffic for hours.

5. Sometimes children rush bare feet to get in the car with their parents. Once out of the car in a hot day, the child’s feet can get badly burned, because the child’s “feet” is too hot, and you are walking on the very hot asphalt of the car park of the super market for example. Keeping a spare pair of thongs for each child in the family permenantly in the car, can save the children from this situation.

6. Please don’t leave coins, cigarette lighter, matches, medicine, small items smaller than a film container, breakable items like glasses for example, or sharp items in any place in the car, not to mention valuable items for the children to tamper with. Small children can get stuck in the gates, or get in the car park pleading with her three years old to tell her, where the baby was gone). Children get kidnapped for their organs, it is a global crime. If the windows of the car are closed, even in a mild weather day, the temperature in the car can reach 40 degrees centigrade, killing a baby or a young child.

7. Never leave a baby or a child or more than one child of any age in the car alone. (I remember seeing a mother in a car park pleading with her three years old to tell her, where the baby was gone). Children get kidnapped for their organs, it is a global crime. If the windows of the car are closed, even in a mild weather day, the temperature in the car can reach 40 degrees centigrade, killing a baby or a young child.

8. Never leave car keys, garage door, or gate monitor in reach of the children. Thirteen and fourteen years old could drive the family car into a big crash in a mild weather day, the temperature in the car can reach 40 degrees centigrade, killing a baby or a young child.

9. Don’t leave a baby in his/her basket or bassinet on the floor behind a parking car in a car park for any reason. babies sit in the back of your car etc. The driver of the car might get it in unnoticed and reverse, killing the baby. (it happened). Be aware of young children too for the same reason. The driver might not be able to see them in his/her mirror.

10. Always take your mobile telephone with you, even when you go for a short drive, in case of emergency.
In need of accommodation
I am a student in C.S.U. Brisbane Campus, I am in need of accommodation, its urgent, at the moment I’m staying in backpack in Roma Street. I can share an apartment or also I can share a room too. So do you have any queries please do contact me, Salman, 0401 850 020

Computer subject(s) tutoring
From primary to high school, teaching various computing/business subjects such as ICT, BCT, BUS and Computer studies. From basics to advanced. (Aliyah 0402 904 181)

Jeep Cherokee
Jeep Cherokee 4x4 low kms 41,000 km excellent condition ($25,000)
(Mohamed Youssef 0417 581 448)

2002 Renault Clio X65
2002 Renault Clio X65 Phase 2 Expression ($13,500) Tanya Hall – 3870 9907

Nanny/Baby sitter
Stay at home mum with 10 month old baby girl. Looking for person to come to our home to help with baby, I will be in the home with you but will do house and office work. Contact at www.qmt.org.au

Computer subject(s) tutoring
I am looking for an honest, reliable and affordable handyman who is able to sort out a few minor house maintenance jobs. If you are unable to reach me on my mobile, please send me an sms and I will contact you asap. Thank you. 0423 404 647.

Employment Opportunities
Contact Sushil (0417 746 977) or Abdullah (0407 609 312) (Muslim Employment Project Coordinators)

Shop furniture & fittings for sale
Convenience store closed down. 15 bays Double Sided supermarket shelving $3000.00, complete alarm system $500.00, digital 8 camera video recording surveillance system $3000.00, assorted supermarket stock at below cost must sell phone Bashir 07 3272 3560 or email ska0713@bigpond.net.au

Beautiful Brand New House available for Rental
**4 Bedroom **2 Bathroom **Double garage **Open plan kitchen and dining room **Separate formal lounge.
Nazeera Khatree 0411 045 021

Muslimah Fashions
Have a collection of beautiful Muslimah Fashion attire available in different colours & styles. Sizes generally from S,M-XL. Long Dresses (Jubah) frm $35, Tunic Blouses (as in the photo shown) $25, Scarves (Hijab) $5-$10 & Brooches. Please contact me for photos or to arrange for viewing. (Homebased) Asliza 0401 032 354.
Triple Filter Test

DURING THE GOLDEN ABDISD period, one of the scholars in Baghdad, the capital of Muslim Caliphate at that time, was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day an acquaintance met the great scholar and said, “Do you know what I just heard about your friend?”

“Hold on a minute,” the scholar replied. “Before telling me anything I’d like you to pass a little test. It’s called the Triple Filter Test.”

“Triple filter?”

“That’s right,” the scholar continued. “Before you talk to me about my friend it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you’re going to say. That’s why I call it the triple filter test. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?”

“No,” the man said, “actually I just heard about it and...”

“All right,” said the scholar. “So you don’t really know if it’s true or not. Now let’s try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about your friend something good?” “No, on the contrary...”

“So,” the scholar continued, “you want to tell me something bad about him, but you’re not certain it’s true. You may still pass the test though, because there’s one filter left: the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me of any use to me?”

“No, not really.”

“Well,” concluded the scholar, “if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?”

“O you who believe! Avoid most of suspicion, for surely suspicion in some cases is a sin, and do not spy nor let some of you backbite others. Does one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? But you abhor it; and be careful of (your duty to) Allah, surely Allah is Oft-returning (to mercy), Merciful.” (Surah al-Hujurat 49:12)

“Help us if you can offer any help,” she said to him.

The angel hit the earth with his heel and water gushed out. Hajira was astonished and started digging. Allah, as she had rightly proclaimed, had not abandoned them.

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), in the Hadith in Bukhari in which much of this incident is narrated, said, “If she (Hajira) had left the water, (flow naturally without her intervention), it would have been flowing on the surface of the earth.”

Today we are bearing the fruits of this mother’s struggle and sacrifice. Many of us drink and have drunk from the well of Zamzam. And those of us who have made Hajr run in a much more comfortable way than Hajira ever did between Safa and Marwa.

Her commitment to her son, her sense of urgency and her unshakable faith in Allah in such harsh circumstances are all examples of not only what an excellent mother she was, but also what a strong believer in Allah she was. If you’re going to Hajr this year, Insha Allah, remember this incident and think of that great mother, in whose memory Muslims today run between Safa and Marwa. Also think about your own mother, and how she too, would probably have done the same for you.
Multicultural Playgroup

A NEW MULTICULTURAL PLAYGROUP has started at the Logan Women’s Health and Wellbeing Centre on Ewing Rd (opposite Blackwood Rd), Woodridge. The playgroup started as a result of Sister Sushil’s effort to introduce Muslim women to the Centre and the services and facilities it has to offer. Sister Frishta took the initiative to start up the playgroup when the adjoining hall was offered free-of-charge by the Centre’s manager. Frishta’s aim is to create a fun but structured playgroup to ensure both Mum and child get the most out of the experience.

The playgroup operates every Wednesday from 9.30am-11.30am. There is a planned craft activity every week followed by a healthy morning tea. Parents bring a piece of fruit and a small plate of nutritious food to share. No junk food please. The cost is $2 per child with a maximum cost of $4 per family.

The playgroup will be open during the December/January school holidays, except for 27 Dec and 3 Jan. School-aged children are most welcome to attend.

So come along and join in the fun. Please contact Frishta on 0410 000 091 or Leila on 0422 914 629 for more information.

IFA and the Mater Hospital—Lending a Helpful Hand

DO YOU WANT TO PUT YOUR spare time toward a rewarding cause? IFA Youth is looking to get young, old and all those in between involved in the Mater Volunteer Program, who are constantly recruiting volunteers, whether you are interested in brightening up the day of the sick or elderly or are more inclined to administrative or clerical work, the program caters for all. It is not demanding and requires approximately 4 hours a week. The following are the main requirements:

• Attend an interview
• Referee check
• A full day Orientation program (held on a monthly basis)
• Application and receipt of a Blue Card if working with children
• Specific program training (usually an hour or 2 in duration)

If you are interested in lending a helping hand, the next information session will be held on 15th February 2007, from 1.30-2.30pm. Please RSVP to IFA youth ASAP: ifafeedback@yahoo.com.au subject: ‘Mater Lend a Helping Hand’

On 15th February 2007, from 1.30-2.30pm. Please RSVP to IFA youth ASAP:

• Referee check

Women of the Year

MOTHER, WIFE AND renowned activist, Nora Amath Rane is well known in Brisbane for her tireless work. In recognition of her contribution Nora has been named Australian Muslim Woman of The Year at the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards in Sydney.

If it’s not being involved with Fair go for Palestine, Nora can be found planning a youth event in her role as advisor to Muslim women’s youth group Al Nisa. Nora is a regular contributor to QMT with her thoughtful and provoking articles and we are proud to have her as a member of our community.

Nora was born in Vietnam raised in the US and now calls Brisbane her home. She is mother to three children and wife to Halim Rane. Nora also holds down a job as an electoral officer for State Member for Stretton Stephen Robertson. Super Woman would be a perfect description.

Currently Nora and her husband are editing a manuscript compiled by various youth from our community on cultural and historical issues. Nora is an asset to our community and we wish her well in all her future endeavours.

Scattered paper

ONCE UPON A TIME an old man spread rumors that his neighbor was a thief. As a result, the young man was arrested. Days later the young man was proven innocent. After been released he sued the old man for wrongly accusing him.

In court the old man told the Judge: “They were just comments, didn’t harm anyone.”

The judge, before passing sentence on the case, told the old man: “Write all the things you said about him in a piece of paper. Cut them up and on the way home, throw the pieces of paper out. Tomorrow, come back to hear the sentence.”

Next day, the judge told the old man: “Before receiving the sentence, you will have to go out and gather all the pieces of paper that you threw out yesterday.”

The old man said: “I can’t do that! The wind spread them and I won’t know where to find them.”

The judge then replied: “The same way, simple comments may destroy the honor of a man to such an extent that one is not able to fix it. You can’t speak well of someone, rather don’t say anything.

“Let’s all be masters of our mouths, so that we won’t be slaves of our words.”

Congratulations to our newly weds

Khatigha Salam daughter of Mr Abdul & Mrs Rashida Salam married Murtuza Imdadali son of Mr Gulamabbas & Mrs Nafisa Imdadali of Singapore on 23 December 2006, at the Stamford Plaza Brisbane.

Umar and Alana Flynn

Narzana Noormahomed and Tasleen Mukhtar

Luqman Issadeen and Ruqayya Paruk

Farhana Omar daughter of Iqbal and Farida Omar married Zaheer Kharodia son of Shabir and Bilquis Kharodia from Sydney.

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**Queensland Muslim Times** congratulates all the participants in the newly formed Islamic rugby league competition which was launched with a rousing game between the Deen Machine Team included members of the prominent Deen family, originating from Darwin, while the more far reaching Mohammed team, stemming from the cane farms of North Queensland also included members of the respected Rane, Cross and Khan families. More than 600 people cheered the teams on when they played their first match at Brisbane’s Sunnybank Rugby Union Club.

The all-Muslim league is the brainchild of Brisbane sales manager Oscar Akbar, 25, who has invited teams from across the country to take part. “I noticed a lot of guys at the mosques were talking about the NRL games, Muslim youths want to play sport, but they feel unable to go to a sports club because they are afraid of ridicule. By creating an all-Muslim league we can enable youngsters to take part without feeling inferior. It’s a way for all the youths to get together and burn off their excess energy on the field, rather than getting into mischief. It also strengthens our community through the sport, by structuring ourselves from within.”

Police are scoring goals with African youth by organising free tickets to an upcoming A-League match.

The Queensland Police Service will be among a number of agencies which will take about 250 young people to tomorrow night’s clash between the Queensland Roar and Perth Glory at Suncorp Stadium. The trip to Suncorp Stadium will follow several recent multicultural football tournaments organised by police. To support these initiatives, Queensland Roar FC has provided 250 free passes to tomorrow night’s game.

Sergeant Jim Bellios, Cross Cultural Liaison Officer for the Metropolitan South Police Region, said many members of Brisbane’s young African community either did not have the opportunity or could not afford to attend major football games. “The purpose of these sporting events is to help divert at-risk youth to activities which are not only positive but encourage positive engagement between police and young people, particularly in the African community,” Sergeant Bellios said.

“This will support many other initiatives aimed at building links between police and young people.”