



[A Message from the President](#)



Assalaam o aleykum, Brothers & Sisters in Islam,

Alhamdulillah, with the mercy of Allah (S.W.T) the Masjid Bilal Project is progressing on schedule. By the time you get this Newsletter, inshallah, the crew will be erecting the steel structure to close the basement with core slabs.

As most of you know, we did run into a glitch whereby we had to go back to the City to have Innes road dug to lower the services and water pipes. It cost the project two precious months during summer despite the fact that the City officials were most helpful and cooperative.

Our Volunteers have been working diligently and have kept the project moving forward. For instance, our Technical Committee has been in the forefront to deal with the City and other Consultants and is instrumental in working with our contractors Brs. Talat and Hanny of TTS.

Our Fundraising Committee has done equally well by raising over \$712,000.00 in 2008 (\$450,000.00 were collected in 2007).

Our sisters have also been working very hard. In 2008 alone, they have raised \$60,000.00

Our Shura members have been equally up to the challenge and have been working in varied capacities to help the project.

However, no matter how you look at it, it is one of the toughest assignments. To raise funds under normal circumstances is tough enough. But now with the economic severe downturn, it will be a greater challenge to keep the construction going. On top of that, masha Allah, there are 4 mosque projects which are under way in Ottawa and we wish everyone success.

Masjid Bilal will be completed by next Ramadan insha Allah to serve the community in Orleans provided we can raise required funds for the construction.

In this regard, our dinner on Saturday January 10, 2009 is of utmost importance. We must do our best to raise maximum funds for the construction.

Therefore, I appeal to each and every one of you to please assist the volunteers by joining them in door to door drives, coin box donations, reserving a praying space for your dear passed ones, helping to raise funds from your network of friends and relatives by using blogs and facebook for example.

Please come forward and combine your efforts with our volunteers to achieve this dream of building an Islamic heritage Mosque in downtown Orleans on a busy four lane highway which will be a source of pride for the whole community.

Your brother in Islam
Saeed A. Bokhari
President

Moving? Please
let us know

[Fundraising Activities](#)

Our Fundraising Committee (FRC) has been equally active in raising funds for the Masjid Bilal.

The results of their actions speak for themselves. In 2008, \$712,000.00 have been raised as compared to \$450,000.00 raised in 2007.

During the year FRC has tried various campaigns such as writing letters to Muslim doctors and Dentists and to community members at large to solicit funds for the construction.

Over \$60,000.00 were raised from Friday collections at various Mosques in Toronto and Montreal. With the exception of one trip all expenses were paid by the volunteers from their own pockets.

Not all ideas have worked but the FRC is committed to come up with and explore new ideas to raise funds for the Masjid. It is the goal of the FRC to raise \$1,000,000.00 in the year 2009, insha Allah.

Please help us
raise funds
for construction

[Recognitions](#)

ISC wishes to recognize the dedicated services offered by Sr. Shanaz Ahmed who has greatly helped in raising funds. Recently, she raised \$3,200.00 for the construction of Masjid Bilal.

ISC wishes to recognize the services of Srs. Kausar Saeed, Lubna Syed, Rehana Qureshi and others for their help and assistance to raise funds for the construction.

ISC also recognizes the services and dedication of many brothers Mohammed Chaouni, Nouredine Benichou, Abdelaziz Laouadi, Ijaz Azad, Hachem Ben Essalah, El Bachir Boukherouaa, Lahouari Ghaicha, Abdelmonaam Kallal and, Yucel Tosun, Arshad Kamal and others who have and are helping in the construction of Masjid Bilal by serving in various committees and in the Shura.

[Board of Trustees \(Shura\)](#)

Chairman Saeed Bokhari	613 837-9541
Secretary Tahawar Rana	613 240-4027
Treasurer Shakil Ahmed	613 837-7259
Nouredine Benichou	613 590-9635
Yucel Tosun	613 841-7774
Arshad Kamal	613 834-2219
Tayyub Mohammad	613 277-4423

[Imam of Masjid](#)

Imam Mohammed B Salim	613 852-7999
-----------------------	--------------

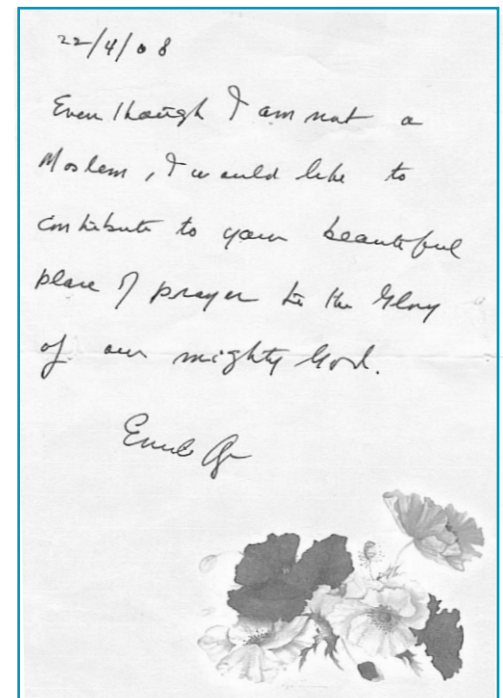
[Fundraising Committee](#)

Mohammed Chaouni	Chairman	613 292-9735
Lahouari Ghaicha	Secretary	613 834-7291
Saeed Bokhari	Member	613 837-9541
Ahmed Shakil	Member	613 837-7259
Arshad Kamal	Member	613 834-2219
Sheikh Mohammed Badat	Member	613 852-7999
Hachem Ben Essalah	Member	613 614-3828
El Bachir Boukherouaa	Member	613 830-7266
Abderrahim Chbihi	Member	613 830-7063
Mohcine Chaouni	Member	613 824-5250
Abdelmonaam Kallali	Member	613 799-1811
Imran Muhammed	Member	613 837-6330
Imam Dr. Zijad Delic	Member	613 698-8469
Samir Kaddoura	Member	613 222-5906
Hamid Challal	Member	613 862-9001
Tayyub Mohammad	Member	613 277-4423

[Technical Committee](#)

Dr. Nouredine Benichou	613 590-9635
Dr. Abdel Aziz Laouadi	613 590-1282
Ijaz Azad	613 841-9717
Mian A. Aziz	613 822-0187

[Act of Generosity...](#)



Purpose

Allah (S.W.T.) Says in holy Quran

“who is he that will lend unto Allah (S.W.T.) A goodly loan, that He may double it for him and his may berich reward?”

It is narrated

by Bukhari and Muslim that

“ whoever builds a Mosque for the love of Allah (S.W.T.),

He will build for him

a masion in paradise.”

Sister's Corner

Kausar Saeed

Driving east on Innes road just past the 10th Line in Orleans, it is hard to miss the sight and sounds of the construction work in progress at the Bilal Masjid job site. It gives one encouragement and hope. Being an integral part of the community, sisters have also been fulfilling their vital role in this project with the ISC Shura. We wish to share a synopsis of our activities over the last six months:

A ladies fundraising event was held on May 24, 2008 and prominent speakers such as Sr Khadija Haffajee, Sr Sheema Khan and Sr Fatma El-Mehelmy enlightened the audience on various topics. Pat Monette, the wife of Orleans Councilor and a great friend of the community Bob Monette, was amongst the attendees. An essay competition for the topic of Role of Mosque in Islam was organized as well. Tuba Yousuf's essay won the first prize while second prize was shared by Ruba Farkhurdeen & Huda Khan.

A silent auction (jewelery) was also held at this gathering. We would like to specially thank Mr. Amjad Syed for donating box lunches and for his continued support to Bilal Masjid. Alhamdulillah a sum of **\$40,000** was raised at this event. As well, during the month of Ramadan, sisters helped in the organization

and collection of funds for family Iftar and Khatam-ul-Quran gatherings.

Our most recent fundraising activity was a Multicultural Bazaar held at Sir Wilfred Laurier Secondary school on December 6, 2008. This event was open to the community at large. We thank the members of the municipal, provincial and federal governments who visited us and showed their unflinching support for this noble cause. With the help of a team of dedicated volunteers and generosity of donors like Kababish restaurant, Emerald bakery and Macro traders, we managed to raise **\$20,000** on this day. Thanks to the community for their support and encouragement which also helps the morale of the volunteers.

Despite various ongoing fundraising activities, funds are still needed to keep up with next phase(s) of the construction. Your continued help is appreciated..

For further details please contact the Ladies Committee of the Islamic Society of Cumberland.

Kausar Saeed
613 746-5049
Asaeed789@rogers.com
Lubna Syed
613 841-7480
Mashoodasyed@yahoo.ca

Why we need Masjid?

By Tuba Yousuf

Asalaamuallaikum wa'rahmatullah wa'barakatahu, my name is Tuba Yousuf.. I'd like to introduce you to the importance of the Masjid. Why is it so important to have Masjids in our community?

Masjid is a thing that we all need in our lives. Without our prophets and Masjids, we would have no clue what our meaning and purpose of this life that we are living in is. If we didn't have a Masjid, prophets, good people, prayers and especially the holy Quran in our lives, Shaitan (Satan) would take over us. We should all be very thankful of what Allah (S.W.T.) Has given us.

Masjid is not the only place where we go to pray, it is also a place to have social gatherings, meet new friends, to listen and solve each others problems, to discuss the society's future plans, and it is also an Islamic learning institution. Most students between the ages of 5 to 14 go to the Masjid to learn how to read the holy Quran. The benefit of this is that they may also learn to understand and comprehend the meaning of Quran. Another benefit is that they learn how to read and write Arabic and learn the true meaning of life.

Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) claimed the Masjid to be a garden of paradise. According to a hadith, the Prophet (s.a.w.) Advised the building of Masjids in a simple style, so that there should be no dissipation or delution of the true religious and spiritual atmosphere.

Besides the 5 daily obligatory prayers, there is the weekly Friday prayer which is compulsory and is offered in the Masjid. In practice and content it is like any other prayer, but as a large number of people gather in a Khutbah, giving religious guidance, it is also preached by the Imam before the prayers begin.

The Masjid is an important part of our life, and I hope you all understand that too!

(Tuba is a grade 5 student. This essay won first prize in ISC essay contest).

Masjid Bilal Construction - An Update

- **In July 2008**, a revised building permit was obtained to officially allow the Islamic Society of Cumberland (ISC) to start the construction.
- **Soon after** the start of construction, it was discovered that the services pipes were too high and that Innes road needed to be dug up to lower the pipes. The City was approached and it took two months to have the pipes lowered.
- **Finally**, the construction restarted during the holy month of Ramadan and ever since has progressed in accord with the schedule.
- **Presently**, the basement walls have been built and it is intended to erect the steel structure before covering the basement with core slabs by mid January, 2009.
- **Thereafter**, insh Allah, the remaining part of the steel structure will be erected, weather permitting.
- **So far** over \$300,000.00 has been spent on construction including payments to the architect and other consultants (engineers).
- **May Allah** (swt) grant us the will to complete this project to see this beloved Masjid being used by our community. Aameen

Energy Efficiency Consideration in the New Masjid Bilal

Dr. Abdelaziz Laouadi
Co-chair Technical Committee

Energy efficiency has become a standard practice in the design of new buildings to reduce the energy consumption and operating costs. The new Bilal Masjid will feature the following energy efficiency measures:

- Use of daylighting. Extensive openable high performance windows on the south and north facades are used to partially eliminate the need for electrical lighting during daytimes, and to naturally ventilate the space during summer times. Tubular skylights are also used in the mezzanine floor to daylight the hall and prayer areas not reached by windows. Bringing natural daylight indoors has also other positive psychological and health benefits on people.
- High efficiency heating and cooling equipment with built-in heat recovery units to recover some of the energy otherwise lost in the warm exhaust air.
- High efficiency solar collectors are used to preheat domestic hot water when there is abundance of sunshine.
- The building is split into four thermal zones with dedicated heating/cooling equipment, which can be operated depending on the occupancy of that space. For example, the main prayer hall is operated during Jumua/Eid prayers and set to a minimum during other days.
- The exterior walls and roof include additional insulation layers, higher than the building energy code requirement.

"The Mosques of Allah S.W.T. Shall be maintained only by those who believe in Allah and the last day, perform As-salat, and give Zakat and fear none but Allah. It is they who are on true guidance" (9:18)

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said: "Whoever builds a mosque for the love of Allah (S.W.T.) Allah will build him a Mansion in paradise" (Bukhari & Muslim)



It is very fortunate for a Muslim to be able to Mosque or to take part in its construction. A verse of the Quraan tells us that only those people inhabit Mosques who believe in Allah and the last day. Thus, the building of Mosques is the sign of a person's faith. It is the first demand on his faith.

Every Muslim is aware of the position of a Mosque in Islamic Society. The Holy Prophet (saws) has termed as Salat (regular prayer) as a pillar of religion and he said "One who established prayer, in fact, establishes religion! And one, who abandons prayers, breaks the founding pillar of religion.

The prayer that is truly approved in the sight of Allah is the one offered with the congregation in the Mosque.

As for the prayer that is offered at home, the jurist calls it an incomplete offering, meaning that it is imperfect. The perfect offering of the prayer is to offer it with the congregation in the Mosque.

Mosque has been a distinguishing mark of the Muslims for, to whichever region they have gone to, the first thing they did was build the house of Allah whether they had their own home or not.

It is known of Muslims that they discharged this obligation in very serious and dangerous conditions too when their lives were at stake, when they did not have enough wealth and faced extreme poverty.

Mosque was considered over everything else and they did not omit the duty of building it in their pitiable condition, too.

Virtues of Building a Masjid

From a speech by Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani

In Fact, it is such people who receive the savor of faith. We are the ones who have received the religion without effort. We are born to Muslim parents and had to make no sacrifice for Islam. We have spend no money and put in no effort. The result is that we do not realize the worth of Islam.

Only those who have worked for it, made sacrifices and undergone trials, know the real worth of it.

We must be thankful to Allah that we face no restriction on building Mosques. We are able to build a Mosque whenever and wherever we like. Hence, it is our great fortune that we build this Mosque and everyone who takes part in it, in whatever way, is indeed, worth congratulating.

I must state here that a Mosque is built not with its walls, the bricks and materials.

The first Mosque which the Prophet (saw) built in Islam at Medina- the Masjid Nabawi- did not even have a solid roof or firm walls but its walls were made of leaves of date palm. In spite of that there is no Mosque more meritorious than it besides the Masjid Al-Haram at Makkah

A Mosque is not the area within the walls with towering minaret and the riche. Rather, it is the name of those who prostrate.

We may build a very large Mosque, beautiful in all respects and its walls well adorned, but it is bereft of worshipers. That Mosque is deserted. A Mosque is inhabited with the worshipers who offer prayers.

The Holy Prophet (saw) describes the Last Day and the Day of Resurrection and he said a time will come: It would look that the Mosques are occupied and they will be well built, very beautiful to look at, but deserted within.

There will be very few worshipers inside. Very few people will use them for the purpose for which they are built. Iqbal has said about it that Mosques are built overnight by the believers but their hearts are sinful and they could not become worshipers in ages.

Anyway, all those who are participating in building this Mosque are very fortunate. May Allah make their task easy. Aameen.

We must remember, however, that our task does not end with the erection of the Mosque. In Fact, our



duty begins after putting the edifice up. We have to inhabit it with worshipers who offer prayers, who recite the Qur'an in its precincts and remember Allah often.

The Mosque occupies a central position in Islamic Society. It is here that life is fashioned, character built and manners shaped. Mosque are built for these purposes. It is, then, occupied in the literal sense and the figurative sense.

May Allah make this Mosque a source of goodness and blessing for the people of the neighborhood. May He cause these people to fulfill their obligations and may they inhabit this Mosque and keep it occupied. Aameen.

Please help us
raise funds
for construction

[Please visit our website at www.masjidbilal.org to make a donation](http://www.masjidbilal.org)