

1823 8TH STREET
SUGAR ESTATE
ST. THOMAS, VI

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Madrasatun Nur School of Light
- Services
- Mission
- What's New?
- Imams Message
- Prayers
- Hurricane Update
- World News
- Education in Islam

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Masjid Nur Newsletter

Nur Islamic Center

Al Muk-bir: The Informer

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 1, 2018

Opening of Madrasatun Nur School of Light Weekend Program

Madrasatun Nur School of Light (MNSL) opened its doors to 45 plus students whom attended in January 2018. MNSL began its weekend program to promote both education and Islam.

Madrasatun Nur School of Light is located on St. Thom-



Muslim youth in Islamic class in attendance at Madrasatun Nur School of Light near Masjid Nur Ahl-Ul Sunnah, St. Thomas

as, USVI next to Masjid Nur Ahl-us Sunnah. The program focuses on Islamic studies, the Arabic language and some academic classes, such as Math, Reading, Science and Geography.

MNSL is open to students who are currently in Kindergarten to eight grade. Students are taught by highly qualified teachers with exceptional educational backgrounds.

In March, an open house was done to give parents the opportunity to meet teachers, to discover more about the curriculum and to update them about the program and their child's progress.



Whoever follows a path in the pursuit of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise
— Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

MNSL weekend program is designated to help both parents and the community understand the educational opportunities students have at Madrasatun Nur. Meetings and open house helps to en-



sure positive home-school communication and fosters a collaborative effort in educating our youth.

Other educational classes are

also given as part of the mission of Nur Islamic Center (NIC).

There are a number of Quranic classes for adults for both brothers and sisters who may be interested. Arabic classes, Islamic classes (Fiqh, Islamic Creed, History and wellness) and daily Hadith is also offered for adults.

If you would like to find out more information, visit:

<http://www.nurahlusunnah.com/madrasatun-nur-school-of-light.html>

You can also visit MNSL Facebook page for the most up to date information:

<https://www.facebook.com/MadrasatunNurSchool-ofLightSTT/>

Islamic Center Nur-Ahl-Us Sunnah Mission



Our mission is to improve, support and encourage an Islamic way of life as outlined in the Holy Quran, and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). We strive to deliver generous and philanthropic help to the community.

We promote Islam through educational and social activities, which are consistent with the teachings and principles of Islam. We reinforce and support the positive relationships between Muslims and Non-Muslims by establishing a united community through actual interfaith partnerships, acceptance, and respect.

Services Offered

- ◆ Five daily congregational prayers and Fridays Jumu'ah prayer
- ◆ Counselling, Advice and Fatwa
- ◆ Educational services
- ◆ New Muslims support
- ◆ Outreach
- ◆ Burial Services
- ◆ Marriage Services



Islamic Center Directors Message

As'salamualikum Brothers and Sisters,

After our initial establishment of Islamic newsletter, Al-Mukbir, for Masjid Ahl-us-Sunnah Islamic Center here on St. Thomas, USVI, we have decided to make Al-Mukbir a tri-monthly newsletter to accommodate the ongoing activities here in our Islamic community. Keep in mind that our primary objective of our monthly newsletter is to update members of the community and congregation on our mission, to keep in touch and access information.

Many things stand out this month in Al-Mukbir and the reopening of Madrasatun Nur School of Light weekend program is one that is newsworthy as we move forward to educate our youth in acquisition of knowledge.

As we move forward, may Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala give us the tawfeeq (guidance) to recognize the value of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet (Salallahu alaihi wa sallam) and practice it so that we are rewarded with the barakah in our lives. If you have any suggestions, questions or ideas to add to our monthly newsletter please feel free to contact us.

Imam Abu-Bakar
Mohamed



WHAT'S NEW

1. Masjid Nur Islamic Center has reopened Madrasatun Nur School of Light (MNSL).
 - ing every Saturday with Sansei Suleiman Francis from 6:am-8am.
2. Madrasatun Nur will be holding *Pre-Ramadan Activities Week* for the Month of April.
3. Daily Quran classes for adults will be available by appointment.
4. There will be a two hour self-defense train-
5. Daily Hadith will be offered every Fajr and every 'Isha.
6. Contact Masjid Nur to see your business ad in our newsletter!

Hurricane Update— St. Thomas Recovery Team

THE STORMS.....

Hurricane Irma made landfall in the United States Virgin Islands on September 6th, 2017 as a Category 5 Hurricane. September 20th, two weeks later, the Virgin Islands were struck by Hurricane Maria, another category 5 Hurricane, cumulatively impacting over 120,000 residents in the Island territory of the United States Virgin Islands.

While the islands are perceived as a tropical vacation paradise, day to day life for the average islander has never been a vacation. At least 40% of the island currently lives at or below the poverty level. Before the storms, nearly 42% of income was directly related to tourism, and as much as 67% of other jobs were attributed to goods and service businesses that support the tourism industry. Since the storms, much of the tourism infrastructure has been struggling to rebound. While cruise ships are returning, the great majority of that economy is driven by the on-island resorts and hotels, which are projected to take 3 to 5 years to recover.

Due to the significant impact these storms had on tourism, residents are facing elevated rates of unemployment, thus increasing the number of families and individuals who do not have the ability to provide for their basic needs, let alone the resources to face the financial burden of repairing damage to their homes. Initial estimates report damage to nearly 61% of the ±50,000 structures on the island of St. Thomas.

St. Thomas, home to 51,642 people prior to the storms, has a current total of 18,258 households registered for assistance with FEMA (the highest of the three islands). While the data currently available is not detailed, it is telling:

- 8,057 homes with minor damage (up to \$5,000)
- 2,618 homes with moderate damage (\$5,000 to \$17,000)
- 400 homes with severe damage (over \$17,000)
- 145 homes destroyed. (by FEMA standards)

And past experience tells us that FEMA projections are significantly low.

Of these, only 64 households have received maximum grants from FEMA. Current assessments estimate over \$80,000,000 in unmet needs. For those identified as having sustained moderate to severe damage to their home, estimated average repair costs are \$32,780 per household. These numbers do not include those affected among the estimated 20,000 unregistered individuals on the Island.

THE ST. THOMAS RECOVERY TEAM

ST. THOMAS IRMARIA FACTS & NUMBERS

- 100k Volunteer Hours
- 55 Partner Organizations
- \$75k Grant Awards

The STRT partner organizations have logged over \$2million (and counting) in volunteer hours to reduce the territory's cost-share with FEMA.



Did you know?

1. Although scholars link the name Allah with El or Elohim, terms for God in Hebrew, most Muslim theologians believe that the origin of the name is Arabic. Regardless of the origin of the name, Muslims believe that Allah is the same God as of Christianity and Judaism.

2. Allah created you and gave you everything.” It is He who has created you and endowed you with hearing and seeing and hearts little are you grateful.” Qur’an 67:23

3. All Muslims believe The Qur’an is the only religious sacred text, to remain free from any tampering or changes. No chapter and or verse has been added, removed or modified, since the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632 C.E.

4. A man once consulted the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) about taking part of a military campaign. The Prophet asked the man if his mother was still living. When told that she was alive, The Prophet said: “Then stay with her, for Paradise is at her feet.” (Al-Tirmidhi)

5. Prophet Muhammad said:” Whoever establishes prayers during the night of Ramadan faithfully out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not to show off), all his past sins will be forgiven.”

6. “Allah has promised those who believe and do good deeds that for them there is forgiveness and a mighty reward.” Qur’an 5:9

By: Waniya and Nuraz Biag

Fun Facts



“An attack on a house of worship is an attack on our democracy”

Islamic World News

German Muslim Groups Ask for Support After Attacks

NBT News- “For decades, Muslims have faced a constant right-wing extremist threat” in Germany, said a joint statement by the Islamic Council, Central Council of Muslims, and the Coordinating Council of Muslims in Germany (KRM).

“This threat has been exacerbated by foreign terrorist groups.”

This year had seen 27 attacks on Islamic houses of worship so far, ranging from graffiti to arson attacks, after more than 100 cases last year, said KRM spokesman Zekeriya Altug.

“In view of this massive threat situation, we miss tangible sympathy from the public and politicians,” said Altug, also a board member of the Turkish-Islamic Union of the Institute for Religion (Ditib).

The detection rate for these offences is very low, said Islamic Council chairman Burhan Kesici at a joint press conference.

The chairman of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany, Aiman Mazyek, questioned Turkey’s decision to summon the German ambassador after the

recent attacks, saying they were not part of a bilateral conflict but a security problem in Germany.

“An attack on a house of worship is an attack on our democracy,” he said.

Islamic Bonds Face 'Uncertain and Muted' 2018 Amid Central Bank Tightening and Geopolitics

CNBC News-After a strong year for the Islamic bond market in 2017, this year is looking more uncertain amid geopolitical risks and economic uncertainties, according to S&P Global Ratings.

Islamic bonds, or sukuk, saw strong issuance last year at \$97.9 billion, up 45.3 percent from the \$67.4 billion issued in 2016, according to data from the ratings agency.

So-called “jumbo issuances” were seen in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies in 2017, whereas 2016 saw Islamic-majority Malaysia issue the most sukuk.

Sukuk is a form of financing that follows Islamic principles, making sure that the debt issuance is structured in a way that is Sharia compliant. It is used by Islamic governments and companies predominantly but is being opened up to retail investors.

Islamic religious law prohibits the earning of interest (which is seen as a form of usury) so traditional western bonds are not acceptable. Instead, Islamic bonds give investors a share in the ownership of an underlying asset rather than the ownership of debt and interest payments, as with conventional bonds.

Mohamed Damak, a senior director of financial services at S&P Global Ratings, said the first two months of 2018 had been marked by a good performance for local currency issuance and a drop in foreign currency issuance.

Still, Damak said that monthly performance was not a good indicator of annual issuance numbers and that 2018, as a whole, was expected to see a drop in sukuk issuance, with expectations for around \$70-80 billion in total.

Prayers- Duas for Success

1. Quran 2:201 (Al Baqara)

This dua is for our success in the dunya (real world) and akhirah (the day after). Moslem usually recite int the end of the supplication asking for God protecting them from the Fire of the Hell.

“Rabbanaa fidunyaa hasanatan, wa fil aakhirati hasanatan, wa qinaa azaban naar”

“Our Lord, give us in this world [that which is] good and in the Hereafter [that which is] good and protect us from the punishment of the Fire.”

2. Quran Surah 25: 74 (Al Furqan)

The dua quoted from Al-Furqan is for success not only in the job or business but also success in the marriage, surrounded happiness and full loving to the wife as well with the children.

“Rabbanaa hablanaa min azwajinaa wa dhuriyati-na qurrata a’yunin wa aj’alna lil muttaqeen”

“Oh my Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us for the righteous leader“

Recite this dua everytime finishing the obligatory prayer for gaining success in our life.

3. Quran 20 : 25-28 (Taha)

It is the story of Musa (Moses) reciting the dua before he went to Pharaoh to

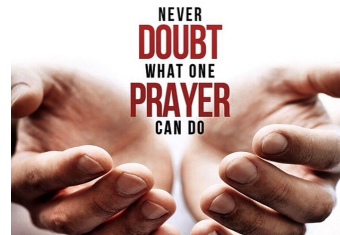
convey the revelation from God which was the One who mankind to be worship instead of idols.

“Rabish rahli sadri, wa yas-sirlii amri, wahlul uqdatam mil lisaani, yafqahuu qauli”

“My Lord, expand for me my breast [with assurance], And ease for me my task, And untie the knot from my tongue, That they may understand my speech”

It is recommended reciting this Quran verse before we

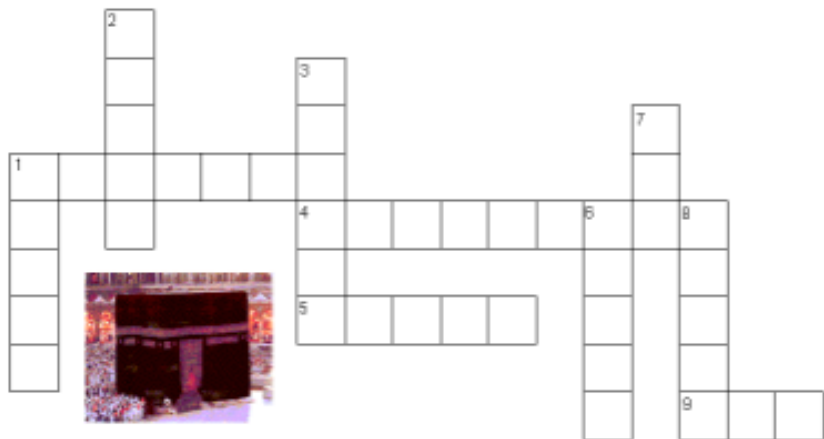
performing some exams, interview of the enrolling into the first rank of college/ university, as well for the employee candidate who per-



forming the job interview.

“Oh my Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us for the righteous leader“

Islamic Crossword

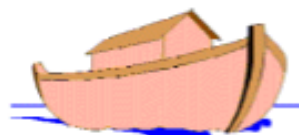


ACROSS

- 1. Prophet Mohammad’s first wife.
- 4. House of Allah.
- 5. Supreme Being.
- 9. He built the ark.

DOWN

- 1. Prophet Ibrahim built this.
- 2. The first Muezzin.
- 3. Prophet Mohammad’s country.
- 6. Dark as night.
- 7. Supplication.
- 8. Prophet Musa’s brother.



Featured Editorial— My Hijab Journey

Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem

My journey in wearing the hijab thus far, has left me with plenty of experiences. Alhamdulillah, I started wearing my hijab in the summer of 2012. That year there was a death in my family that left us all in complete shock. As a result, my family and I began to study the Deen more intently. Many of us learned how to make salah, began to memorize Qur'an, and visited the Masjid frequently. As for me, I decided to take a step further in my spiritual journey by adopting the dress code of my foremothers. In this article, I will share my experiences of wearing the hijab as a young woman here in the west, as well as my hopes and aspirations in continuing to wear it.

At first, when I had announced to my family that I'd like to wear the hijab I remembered how apprehensive they were about letting me wear it. They would ask me on several occasions "Are you sure?" and told me things like "Once you start wearing it you have to keep it on." Although, they spent quite some time advising against it, the level of Iman in me just encouraged it more, and in that summer I'd came to the decision of adopting the dress of my foremothers. In witnessing the amount of resolve I had, my family accepted my decision soon enough.

I remember the first day I put it on I was immensely nervous. I attended a Christian school, so on my first day of wearing it the level of intimidation was greatly overwhelming. I can recall the looks I received clear as day when I walked through the main hall. Younger students were not able to recognize me and watched me as though I were a foreign exchange student. As for those in my age range, they gave me looks of varying degrees; some ranging from bewilderment to what almost looked like pity. However, the reactions from my classmates were different from everyone else's. They asked questions and were genuinely accepting of me. Throughout the years they defended me whenever someone would approach me with hostility, or say something hurtful, and I greatly appreciated them for it.

My path to becoming who I am today was not easy. In the years that followed, I struggled to continue wearing my hijab. Soon thoughts such as "Why do I have to wear this?" began to resound in my mind and I couldn't see myself wearing it anymore. However, through the mercy bestowed upon me by Allah I grew able to admire the wisdom behind its significance. Soon enough I was reminded of just how wonderful the hijab truly is to incorporate into one's life. I found myself becoming able to completely shut out the negativity posed by those who were unaccepting of my practice and found many more who were accepting of my Muslim lifestyle. The more accepting and appreciative I became of the hijab being a part of me, the easier my path became. To this day and for the rest of my days on this earth I will be grateful for my hijab that shaped me into the woman I have become today.

In conclusion, my journey in wearing the hijab has left me with many insights. Today, by the grace of Allah, I strive to wear my hijab with pride. My sincere advice to my sisters who would like to wear the hijab is: don't shy away from your faith, accept it whole heartedly, and embrace it. People will always have something negative to say, but don't ever let that bother you. Wear your hijab, wear it with pride and it'll be your shield and your solace. Once you show resolve, wearing it becomes easy.

A final word to my sisters of Islam, if you wear the hijab then may Allah bless you and make your path easy; and for my sisters who have not yet chosen to wear it, may Allah guide you in your spiritual journey. Jazak Allah Khair!- Contributed by Rihanna Salem



"I can recall the looks I received clear as day when I walked through the main hall. Younger students were not able to recognize me and watched me as though I were a foreign exchange student."



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The establishment of the Muslim community began in the US Virgin Islands 37 years ago with the opening of the first Islamic Center called Masjid Muhammad in 1978 on the island of St. Thomas.

It was later re-named Masjid Nur Ahl-Ul-Sunnah (locally as Masjid Nur or Nur Islamic Center (NIC)) which is currently located in Charlotte Amalie, the capital of the US Virgin Islands. There is currently a Muslim population of approximately 500 Muslims that are made up of indigenous Virgin Islanders, Palestinians, Pakistanis, Egyptians, Jordanians, Africans and residents that moved here from the continental USA.

This is the only Islamic community on island. Masjid Nur Ahl-Ul-Sunnah is an independent non-profit organization.

EDUCATION IN ISLAM

In the words of God in Qur'an, he calls human as his best creation. He orders angels to prostrate in front of first human creation. This shows the dignity and human's place among other creatures. This dignity is first because of the god spirit that is given to human specially and secondly because of wisdom that only human have.

In Islamic belief human is full of potential talents and abilities that should be actualized by education and training. The main purpose of Islamic education is seeking the truth and achieving salvation, this can be achieved by education and intellection alongside with refinements.

The issue of education in Islam it is so important that in the first verses that God says to Prophet Mohammad (peace be up on him): " باسم أقرأ..." Read in the name of your Lord Who created. He created man from a clot. Read and your Lord is most Honorable. Who taught (to write) with the pen. Taught man what he knew not. (alagh 1- 5) And in another verse he says: "... Are those who know and those who

do not know alike? Only the men of understanding are mindful..." (Zomar / 9) and " Is he who was dead then We raised him to life and made for him a light by which he walks among the people, like him whose likeness is that of one in utter darkness whence he cannot come forth? Thus what they did was made fair seeming to the unbelievers.



" (anam / 122) "

In Islamic point of view rational growth can take place parallel to ethical growth and these two cannot be parted as ethics without science is idiotic, science without ethics is stupidity. Always in our moral and religious books, science and ethics are together and religion that shows his most interest and attention to acquisition of knowledge, says that the goal of his messenger is to show the best morality and ethics to the world. Islamic education is a perfect comprehensive system, which looks in to all human dimensions.

In the process of Islamic education development of mind and body, worldly life and hereafter, society and individual have the same level of important and none of them should be ignored. Intelligent and wisdom have a special place in Islamic teaching. This importance has been said in 300 verses in Qur'an -*Mohsen Tousi from AL Mostafa International University*