



# BCMA BURNABY, NEW-WESTMINSTER & TRI CITY BRANCH

## Al-Salaam Newsletter

DECEMBER 25, 2015

VOLUME 3 OF 2015

**"Masjid Al-Salaam & Education Centre --An educational platform for disseminating authentic Islamic Knowledge with the core objective of building values for a healthy and productive Canadian Society."**

### Year in review – Message from Chairperson

Assalam-o-alyekum All!

As Chairperson for Burnaby, New Westminister and Tri City branch since November 2015 I have immense pleasure in thanking all those who are meaningfully engaged in the running affairs of the branch. My background is of a mechanical engineer (Fiji) and am presently running a halal meat shop in Coquitlam, B.C.

2015 has been a year filled with activities at your Masjid which include:

- Running weekend Islamic classes for approximately 250 students;
- Adult education;
- Interfaith dialogue;
- Food bank;
- Catering for the month of Ramadan;
- Welcoming non-Muslim visitors to the masjid on a regular basis;
- Partnering with other faith group in providing assistance to the needy in the community;
- Raising funds for the Syrian sponsorship program;
- Counseling services; and
- Gusul services.

I wish to thank our sisters for taking active part in assisting us in running the Masjid. They have been actively involved in Masjid since the beginning.

I am pleased to announce that our community kitchen construction will be completed by the end of January 2016. At the last annual general meeting it was agreed to draft a blue print for covering the Masjid's court yard. We will pursue this project in the new year, In Sha Allah.

We have a number of programs outlined for 2016 and this will be communicated at Jumma salah and through our websites (<http://org.thebcma.com/burnaby> & <http://www.bcmaburnaby.org>) in the coming weeks.

Please continue to make a positive contribution that will be beneficial to us all - Muslims and non-Muslims.

I hope to have an open forum for the community at large where we can all sit together and discuss issues that are facing our community and how best to tackle these issues - Collectively we can make a difference

Jazaka Allah Khair

Mohammed Shameem

### Directors

The following are directors for 2015-2017 terms:

Name	Position / Portfolio	Contact Number
Br. Mohammad Shameem	Chairperson	604-644-9218
Br. Jalil Khan	Secretary	778-863-8684
Br. Mohammed Jakir	Treasurer	604-525-8114
Br. Daud Ali	Education	778-829-7864
Br. Mohammed Azeem	Social Service	604-454-7396

Name	Position / Portfolio	Contact Number
Br. Mohammed Aslam Khan	Maintenance	604-294-3597
Br. Shamim Khan	Membership	604-329-6755
Br. Safiq Koya	Funeral services	604-720-2431
Br. Mahmood Khan	Sports	778-397-1005
Br. Syed Ali	Fundraising	778-889-2931
Br. Riyad Zubair	Youth	604-764-7326

#### Other officials

Name	Position / Portfolio	Contact Number
Br. Yahya Momla	Imam	778-919-7973
Br. Mustafa Focek	Care taker & school custodian	604-783-0442

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#### E-mail:

[Burnaby@thebcma.com](mailto:Burnaby@thebcma.com)

#### Websites

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## Message from Imam Yahya Momla

On Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 2015, I delivered a lecture at the **7th annual "SPIRIT OF ISLAM" CONFERENCE** in Surrey, BC. Below is an abbreviated summary of my lecture:

All praise is due to Allah alone; and Peace and blessings be upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad.

The topic for this year's conference is "**UNITY**." When discussing unity, we often hear the word "**UMMAH**." What exactly is an Ummah, and more importantly, what is the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him?

In the Holy Qur'ān, ummah has many meanings. The word "ummah" is used to describe time; it is used to refer to the Prophet Ibrāhīm Peace Be Upon Him.

In the context of unity, the word "ummah" can be defined as "**a group of people who share a common belief** (i.e. the oneness of Allah and the prophet hood of the last messenger), **and a common goal**."

In the Holy Qur'ān, Allah mentions "**Hold tightly to the rope of Allah, and do not divide yourselves.**" [Holy Qur'an – Chapter 3, Verse 103] The rope of Allah mentioned in this verse is the Qur'ān. In order for any group to be united, there must be a common uniting factor. We can understand from this verse that the common uniting factor for us Muslims is our belief in the words of Allah as exemplified by His messenger Muhammad Peace be upon him.

In order to achieve and maintain this desired unity, there are steps that we all need to take. I will try to summarize these steps for you today in a few points.

1. The first and most important step is to recognize the uniting factor. We are a nation of approximately 2 billion. We speak different languages and our ethnicities vary. What unites us is our belief in one Allah and the prophet hood of His last messenger. Therefore, the most important step in achieving unity is to put the commandments of Allah and His messenger above all.
2. When we speak and interact with one another, we must do so using the best language and manners. If you have two ways of communicating a single message, it is your job as a Muslim to choose the better of the two. Allah says: "**And tell my servants to speak what is best, for Shaytān will try to sow hatred between them.**" [Holy Qur'an – Chapter 17, Verse 53]
3. When calling others (*Muslim or non-Muslim*) to the correct path, it is extremely important to use a wise approach. Stay away from harsh language and bad manners.
4. Always try to reconcile differences at the earliest opportunity. "Believers are brothers to one and other, so mediate between your brothers and fear Allah so that He may have mercy on you" [Holy Qur'an – Chapter 49, Verse 10]

5. Avoid spreading rumours and suspicion. The Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him is reported to have said: "Stay away from suspicion for suspicion is the worst of lies."
6. Learn to overlook the ignorance of others. "And when the ignorant address them they reply with a kind greeting." [Holy Qur'an – Chapter 25, Verse 63]

Some things to be cautious of:

- **Scholarly difference in opinion is a mercy for our ummah.** As a lay Muslim who is not familiar with scholarly discourse, be cautious of deeming any practice harām. Let the scholars do their jobs. Learn to respect difference of opinion.
- **Check your ego.** Do not let your ego get in the way of what unites you with your fellow Muslims.

I pray that Allah give us the ability to unite us all on the straight path, the path of His messenger and the pious predecessors. Āmīn.

## Message from Sr. Tazul Ali – Women Chapter

Burnaby Women's Chapter is happy to welcome the new year of 2015 -2016 and hope to work closely with brothers and sisters for bringing forth activities, educational workshops, seniors wellness circles and youth programs for our members.

The month of September saw the election process for the BCMA and Burnaby Women elected a new Chairperson, Sr. Tazul Ali. We also welcome our new Treasurer, Sr. Nur Janif. The Branch always had a very committed group of Board members.

We thank Sr. Hazra Ismail, the past Chair, for her hard work towards the Branch and wish her the best with the Women's Affairs Board. Sr. Nuzhat Hafeez has left the Burnaby Board. She managed the Al-Salaam Weekend School with greatest commitment and dedication to bring the quality of education to our children. She has also been a great contributor of Islamic Education for our Board and general membership. We wish her the best in her future endeavours.

Burnaby Branch has always take pride to run Al-Salaam Weekend School. Alhamdulillah, with the dedicated teachers, committed volunteers and the Board, there are about 250 children enrolled in this school. We are fortunate to be able to provide Islamic Studies and reading / recitation of Qur'an to our children. The School Winter Event was celebrated on December 19<sup>th</sup> with beautiful Qur'an recitation, children's performance and a healthy lunch. Thank you to all.

Burnaby Women are also committed to providing services to Senior and Youth members. Seniors Wellness Circle is run once a month with physical exercise and health or related topics for our elders. The Youth Director is very involved in organizing activities to capture the interest of the youth. The Food Bank and the Hot Meal program are once a month - thanks to the Social Services and the team. Ghusl for the dead are also done here. The sincere teamwork of the Board of Burnaby Women brings all the activities to fruition.

Our future major activities include, but not limited to, Spring Bazaar, Women's Symposium on Unity of Muslim Women, Ghusl/Tahara workshop.

We are also very committed to the cause of Syrian Refugee Sponsorship.

Alhamdulillah, it is an honour and a pleasure to be part of this great team.

Jazaka Allah Khair

Tazul Ali

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5060 Canada Way,  
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[Burnaby@thebcma.com](mailto:Burnaby@thebcma.com)

### Websites

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<http://www.bcmaburnaby.org/>

The following are directors for Women Chapter:

Name	Position / Portfolio
Sr. Tazul Ali	Chairperson
Sr. Khatoon Nisha Zuber	Secretary
Sr. Nur Janif	Treasurer
Sr. Fareeda Ali	Social Services
Sr. Jinnat Buksh	Funeral Services
Sr. Malka Buksh	Membership
Sr. Zahra Haq	Youth
Sr. Nazma Lal	Mosque Coordinator
Sr. Mehrul Hanif	Fundraising

## Financial Overview

The following is branch's statement of operations for the year ended July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

	Restricted Capital	Restricted Zakat & Others	Unrestricted General
<i>Amount in \$</i>			
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Donations	32,479	-	110,668
Jumma collections	-	-	73,228
Tuition fees	-	-	62,204
Sundries – <i>Ticket sales, Rental and others</i>	-	-	29,855
Food bank	-	57,186	-
Zakat and Fitra collections	-	54,715	-
Inter-fund contributions	-	4,000	15,000
Relief fund	-	3,945	-
Membership fees	-	-	1,310
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>32,479</b>	<b>119,846</b>	<b>292,265</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Wages and benefits – <i>Teachers, Imam &amp; Caretaker</i>	-	-	105,913
Amortization	-	-	98,910
Utilities	-	-	28,625
Inter-fund contributions – <i>Head office expenses</i>	-	38,915	24,637
Zakat contributions	-	30,298	-
Community programs	-	-	26,265
Food bank	-	23,731	-
Property expenses – <i>Repair &amp; maintenance, etc.</i>	-	-	14,510
Educational supplies - <i>School</i>	-	-	14,137
Office and General Expenses	-	-	12,116
Insurance	-	-	8,172
Telephone, internet & website maintenance	-	-	4,102
Audit, legal & professional fees	-	-	3,419
Relief fund	-	3,415	-
Bank charges	2,959	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,959</b>	<b>96,359</b>	<b>340,806</b>
<b>Excess (Deficit) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>29,520</b>	<b>23,487</b>	<b>(48,541)</b>

**WISHING YOUR ALL A BLESSED**

**&**

**PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

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